

Colombia
Ex-landowner legal battle in U.S. base

TOKYO (AP) — A year-long legal battle over land made into a U.S. base ended Tuesday when the Japanese Supreme Court ruled in favor of the U.S. military.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and "many other governments" are studying the concept of a "Hutland" and a "Tutland" to replace Rwanda and Burundi, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose said Friday.

BEIRUT (AFP) — An impoverished Palestinian AIDS victim was hospitalized here on Friday nearly a week after he was refused medical care, hospital officials said. Nabil Ateyeh, 32, was taken by ambulance from his home in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in South Lebanon to the Hotel Dieu Hospital which agreed to take him in after an appeal by a U.N. relief organization for Palestinian refugees.

MANCHESTER (R) — More than 170 holidaymakers escaped serious injury on Friday when a charter flight from the Canary Islands crashed on landing at Manchester airport. The Airbus A330-300 skidded on the runway at Ringway airport shortly after midnight. An investigation was underway as the holiday firm defended the plane's safety record. Police said passengers had a lucky escape when the plane's undercarriage collapsed, forcing an emergency evacuation.

Wife killed when suspect resists arrest
SIDON (AP) — The wife of a suspected member of a Palestinian group was killed when her husband tried to resist arrest and engaged policemen in a shootout, a police statement said Friday. He identified the woman as Yusra Al Khattab, 36. Her husband, Mohammad Rishi Saleh, opened up with an automatic rifle at policemen who had come to his home in Sidon's Barrad neighbourhood to arrest him just before midnight Thursday. The policemen fired back, fatally wounding the woman, according to the statement released in Sidon. Saleh, 46, was overpowered and arrested. The statement said Saleh is wanted on several criminal charges, but did not give details.

Fugitive 'biscuit king' surrenders
NEW DELHI (AFP) — Business tycoon Rajan Pillai, who fled to Bombay earlier this month after being convicted of fraud in Singapore, surrendered Friday before an Indian court, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Mr. Pillai, who earned the nickname Asia's "biscuit king" after he staged a dramatic corporate takeover in 1989, surrendered before a judicial magistrate in the southern Indian city of Trivandrum, PTI said.

Kozyrev defends Iran reactor sale

WASHINGTON (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Friday he saw no reason to halt a proposed sale of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran. "I don't see why it should be stopped," Mr. Kozyrev said, answering questions after a speech at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. The U.S. administration strongly opposes the sale, saying it could help Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher raised the issue in talks with Mr. Kozyrev this week, and it is expected to be a leading theme in a U.S.-Russian summit in Moscow, on May 9-10. Mr. Kozyrev said he saw nothing wrong with supplying Iran with the reactors which he said would be under the full supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog body. The Russian minister noted that the United States was offering light water nuclear reactors to North Korea and asked why Russia should not do likewise with Iran. "We will not do anything which bears the potential for the nuclear military capacity of Iran," Mr. Kozyrev said.

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U.S. studying 'Hutland' and 'Tutland'

NAIROBI (AFP) — The United States and "many other governments" are studying the concept of a "Hutland" and a "Tutland" to replace Rwanda and Burundi, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose said Friday. "It is a regional problem," Mr. Moose told journalists in the Kenyan capital after visits to both tiny Central African nations, where violence between Hutus and Tutsis is endemic. One of the main problems was that both countries were overpopulated, he said.

Palestinian AIDS victim finally in hospital

BEIRUT (AFP) — An impoverished Palestinian AIDS victim was hospitalized here on Friday nearly a week after he was refused medical care, hospital officials said. Nabil Ateyeh, 32, was taken by ambulance from his home in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in South Lebanon to the Hotel Dieu Hospital which agreed to take him in after an appeal by a U.N. relief organization for Palestinian refugees. Neighbours on Thursday threatened to seal off all roads leading to the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp — an impoverished camp teeming with around 70,000 inhabitants — unless the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) took action. The UNRWA director in the southern port of Sidon, Saeed Afife, said the agency would foot the bill for Mr. Ateyeh's hospitalisation. Mr. Ateyeh's plight made headlines in Beirut after his brother, Adel Ateyeh, shot him in the legs when he allegedly threatened to cut himself and contaminate his family with the AIDS virus unless they helped him.

170 escape death in crash-landing

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Jordan seeks regional peace, Israel has major responsibility — Sharif Zeid

Jordan, Tunisia sign agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan remains committed to achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East and believes that peace between the two countries in the region is not enough to ensure security and stability in the region, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said in comments published Friday. Sharif Zeid, in an interview with Tunisia's Al Sahab daily, also voiced hope that comprehensive peace would be established in the region and affirmed that the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein were aimed at this objective. Sharif Zeid, who gave the interview to Al Sahab while in Tunisia to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee, expressed optimism that all regional problems would be settled soon and underlined that Israel had a major responsibility to achieve peace with all parties in the region and not just Jordan and Palestine.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Prime Minister of Jordan, during his visit to Tunisia.

The prime minister, who returned home late Friday after the conclusion of the Tunis meeting, said the joint committee's deliberations were positive and his visit to Tunisia was good and yielded constructive results towards collective action. Sharif Zeid said the agreements and programmes worked out by the joint committee would contribute to strengthening Jordanian-Tunisian relations and bolstering cooperation between the two countries' private sectors. The prime minister said that during his visit to Tunisia he also sought to enhance collective Arab action and improve inter-Arab coordination while addressing the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

The joint committee concluded its meeting in Tunis Thursday evening by signing three agreements and two executive programmes for the implementation of previous protocols. At the final session of the meetings, co-chaired by Sharif Zeid and Tunisian Premier Hamed Karoui, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and his Tunisian counterpart Salahuddin Ben Mubarak signed an agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific and technical fields. Mr. Abul Ragheb also signed an agreement on encouraging and protecting investments with Mohamed Al Anoush, the Tunisian Minister of international cooperation. Transport Minister Samir Kawai signed an agreement on maritime trade and ports with his Tunisian counterpart Muntaher Al Zanadi.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin and Tunisian Minister of Agriculture Mohamed Ben Rajab signed an executive programme dealing with cooperation in agriculture. Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib signed an executive programme on cooperation in tourism for 1995-1997 with Tunisian Minister of Tourism Salahuddin Mahawi. Addressing the signing ceremony in Tunis, Sharif Zeid said the agreements allow the two countries to give preferential trade treatment to each other, allowing their products to flow freely into one another and open the door for Jordanian and Tunisian businessmen to widen the scope of cooperation in investments and joint ventures. Sharif Zeid announced that Tunisia had decided to participate in the Amman economic conference due to be held in Amman in October. The Tunis meeting reaffirmed the Kingdom's orientation towards joint Arab action and pan-Arab solidarity, the prime minister said. He reiterated Jordan's determination to work towards a comprehensive Middle East peace and enabling the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and independence on their national soil. The Tunisian prime minister said his country was deeply satisfied with the progress of cooperation with Jordan, expressing hope that bilateral agreements would ensure further progress for the two countries. Calling for inter-Arab solidarity, Mr. Karoui said that Jordanian-Tunisian relations "present an example of strong ties for Arab people. Sharif Zeid, who left Tunis after the signing ceremony, returned to Amman late Friday along with the members of the Jordanian side to the committee meeting.

Israel plans to seize more land in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) traded angry accusations Friday over Israel's latest confiscation of Arab-owned land for building Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. The land is located in East Jerusalem.

The deputy mayor, Uri Lupoliansky, told the Post that the municipality has requested additional land expropriations for Jewish housing projects in East Jerusalem. Mr. Lupoliansky would not say how much land altogether was singled out for expropriation. But the Post said that based on sources in city hall and earlier statements by Mr. Lupoliansky, about 1,100 acres had been earmarked. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has promised not to confiscate new land for Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank and not to build new settlements there. However, the pledges do not apply to Arab East Jerusalem.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, an Israeli peace negotiator, warned that the confiscations would backfire and only spur more resentment among the Palestinians. "Whoever confiscates land in Jerusalem not without considering the needs of its Arab residents is loosening the ground under the battle for the unity of Jerusalem," said Sarid. Successive Israeli governments have supported the construction of Jewish neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, with more than 65,000 housing units having been built or approved on annexed land since 1967. Building has been so massive that today Jews outnumber Palestinians in East Jerusalem — 160,000 to 155,000. At the same time, building for Palestinians has been restricted so that the Arab population would not rise above 28 per cent of the total, city officials have said. An Israeli human rights group, Ir Shalem, has asked the finance ministry to block the confiscations, said the group's legal advisor, Daniel Zeidman. He said the group was also considering legal moves if their request was dismissed. "Today, whoever years to continue the confiscation policy doesn't help the unity of the city, but will cause to my regret a re-division of the city by walls of discrimination and fear," Mr. Zeidman told Israel Radio. The Palestinian Authority said that the PLO's U.N. representative would present an urgent complaint to the United Nations Security Council. Left-wing Israeli government ministers from the Meretz party called for a halt to the expropriation orders for the first 33 hectares. The Israeli anti-settlement movement Peace Now said West Bank settlers would begin constructing 200 villas north of Ramallah in May.



MASSACRE: A Rwandan soldier (left) stands dead following a massacre of Hutu refugees guard as bodies are exhumed from a mass grave at the Kibeho refugee camp to count the dead.

Jordan will adopt own NPT stand after Arab, NAM failures

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kaharati said in Jakarta that Jordan would adopt its own national and pan-Arab stand vis-a-vis the question of extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) now that neither the Arab countries nor the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) have reached consensus on this issue. Speaking on Jakarta Television shortly before leaving Indonesia where he attended a meeting of NAM foreign ministers, Mr. Kaharati said that Jordan "will have to adopt a stand regarding this issue in a manner that would safeguard national interests and in line with the provisions of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty which calls for a Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction."

Mr. Kaharati, who is due to return to Amman Saturday, expressed dismay at the Arab League's failure to adopt a unified Arab stand with regard to the NPT extension during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo last month and the failure of the NAM foreign ministers to adopt a concerted policy in this regard. However, the political committee of the conference issued a statement praising Jordan's steps towards peace in the Middle East including the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel. The statement said that the treaty had secured for Jordan the restoration of its lands and water and contributed towards the establishment of overall peace in the region. Following is the statement: 1. The ministers of the coordinating bureau of the non-aligned countries meeting in Bandung, Indonesia, April 25-27, 1995 exchanged views on the review and extension conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. 2. The ministers of the states parties to the treaty

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FBI fears second blast suspect may strike again

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has pledged an all-out effort to catch an elusive second suspect in the deadly Oklahoma City bombing before he can strike again. FBI agent John Hersley made the pledge on Thursday as a judge found an "indelible trail of evidence" linking Gulf war soldier Timothy McVeigh, the only suspect so far in custody, to the April 19 truck bombing of the federal building here which killed at least 110 people. At a hearing held at a Maximum security prison near Oklahoma City, Federal Magistrate Ronald Howland ordered McVeigh, 27, held without bail, paving the way for him to be indicted and brought to trial. Mr. Hersley said at the hearing that his main responsibility was to find out the identity and location of a second suspect "so that we can prevent another bomb that FBI fears that the second suspect, referred to only as "John Doe Number," may set off another bomb. The FBI has released a sketch of the man, who is being hunted nationwide, but says it does not know his real name. The death toll in the bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building climbed to 110 with the recovery of 11 more bodies as rescue workers made progress in removing tonnes of rubble from the collapsed building. Some 400 people were injured in the worst civilian attack in U.S. history and about 100 are still missing. One witness spotted McVeigh driving a rental truck towards the federal building. Another saw him minutes later, speeding away in a car just before an explosion ripped through the building. The alleged sightings, and those of several other witnesses, are part of evidence

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Autopsy proves torture killed Palestinian in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian who died in Israeli custody was tortured to death, a pathologist who attended the autopsy said Friday. The detainee, Abdul Samad Harizat, was beaten for 20 minutes, had his head banged against a wall and was then left alone unconscious in a tiny isolation cell, Israeli media said. The beatings were carried out by five Palestinian collaborators who acted under orders from interrogators in the secret Shin Beth security services, Israeli army radio and the Maariv daily said. An autopsy of Harizat's body was performed Thursday by two Israeli pathologists, with a Scottish pathologist, Dr. Derek Pounder, attending at the request of the Harizat family. Dr. Pounder said Friday all three doctors reached the same conclusion. "There is no doubt whatsoever about the cause of death and it is very clear that he died from unnatural causes, and that he died from torture," Dr. Pounder said on army radio. Harizat, 29, was a suspected activist in the militant group Hamas which has carried out a series of bombing attacks in Israel in an effort to derail the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord. The Shin Beth was interrogating Harizat in hopes he would lead them to members of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, in the West Bank town of Hebron. Government spokesman Uri Dromi said restrictions on Shin Beth interrogators were relaxed after the rash of deadly suicide bombings that has killed scores of Israelis in the past year. A lawyer for the family, Andre Rosenthal, told Reuters that all he could say was that three pathologists had agreed on the cause of death. Mr. Rosenthal said a criminal investigation was under way in the Israeli justice ministry. He said that by agreement he was barred from saying any more until Sunday. Last November, a ministerial committee gave the Shin Beth more leeway in questioning suspected militants after a rise in attacks on Israelis. An Israeli security source said Harizat was a senior member of Hamas' military wing and connected to three Hamas guerrillas killed last week by Israeli forces in Hebron in the West Bank. Even before the relaxing of restrictions, Shin Beth agents

asked how many wanted guerrillas were in the occupied West Bank, Major-General Han Biran told the newspaper Haaretz. "We suppose there are still four or five squads we must kill," "There are several dozen people defined as wanted men. There are thousands aiding the wanted men," said Gen. Biran, Israel's central area commander responsible for the occupied West Bank. Israeli troops have been battling militant suicide bombers who have killed scores of Israelis in an effort to torpedo the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal. Israel's previous army chief, Ehud Barak, said in a newspaper interview last December that of 12 Palestinian guerrillas that appeared on a

Israeli general says troops must kill guerrillas

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Rabin to discuss Syria with Clinton

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to go to Washington next week to brief U.S. President Bill Clinton on his country's peace negotiations with Syria, Israeli radio said Friday.

In an interview to be broadcast Saturday, Mr. Rabin said he intended to submit some new ideas on the negotiations to Mr. Clinton, although he stressed he was not sure what effect the meeting would have on the peace talks, the radio reported. Israeli officials have not said when Mr. Rabin will go to Washington. The Israeli prime minister said he hoped to secure a peace agreement with Damascus before the next Israeli parliamentary elections due in November 1996, when the government leader will be directly elected for the first time. He also said he hoped to organise a referendum on Israel's proposed withdrawal from the Golan Heights before the poll, so the issue could be discussed away from the election campaign. Negotiations between Israel and Syria have stumbled since they started three and a half years ago over the question of withdrawal from the Golan, which the Jewish state has occupied since 1967.

Peres: 'threat' warning
Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday Syria's army is growing weaker and its conventional weapons will pose no threat to Israel within two to three years. "The Syrian army has been weakened by the country's economic problems and its ageing weapons arsenal," Mr. Peres told Israeli Television. "Within two to three years the Syrian army will no longer pose a threat to Israel with regards to conventional warfare," he said. Israel must sign peace with Syria to ward off the possibility that the Arab state would use chemical weapons or back attacks on Jewish targets," Mr. Peres added. It is "very difficult to understand the true positions of the Syrians, which are an enigma to us at the moment," Mr. Peres said.

1992 most-wanted list, only two remained alive. On Thursday, Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian at a roadblock on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The army said it was checking why the soldiers opened fire on the 50-year-old Palestinian, identified by relatives as Nasr Amr. Israel's Channel Two television showed Amr's body, covered with a sheet, on the road near his bloodstained car a few metres from the roadblock, manned by army reservists. "Why did they have to shoot him?" one of Amr's relatives asked reporters at the scene. The television reported that soldiers said Amr, who was transporting Palestinian workers, had behaved suspiciously at the checkpoint in the occupied West Bank. In Gaza City, a mosque preacher addressing PLO

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Albright to visit Jordan, Israel and Egypt in May

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — U.S. Ambassador Albright will meet with the heads of state and senior officials in Israel, Jordan, and Egypt in early May to discuss United Nations activities and issues, the U.S. Mission to the U.N. has announced.

Ms. Albright, the U.S. chief envoy to the United Nations, will also represent President Bill Clinton at a ceremony in the Czech Republic marking the 50th anniversary of the World War II liberation of Plzeň from Nazi occupation May 6, 1945, by American Third Army troops under General George Patton.

Ms. Albright is scheduled to be in Israel on May 1, Jordan on May 2, and Egypt on May 3.

A U.S. official said "the primary focus in the Middle East will be on upcoming General Assembly resolutions and U.N. activity in the region. Issues such as Iraqi sanctions, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and regional peacekeeping operations will also be discussed."

In recent remarks to journalists, the U.S. official characterized Albright's trip as one for "normal consultations" and not one "driven by high policy objectives."

Ms. Albright has long-standing invitations from King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to visit their countries but "she had been unable to meet those invitations because of timing. She felt this was the time," the U.S. official said.

"This is not a presidential mission of the kind she took for consultations on Iraq, nor

is it a presidential one of the kind when she met heads of state during the Partnership for Peace period," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Earlier this year, Ms. Albright undertook a presidential mission to meet with top officials of countries on the Security Council aimed at ensuring that sanctions against Iraq remained in place. One result of that trip to Britain, Oman, Argentina and other countries, was that the United States co-sponsored a resolution allowing Iraq to sell up to \$2,000 million of oil every six months to pay for humanitarian supplies. Iraq, however, has not accepted the council's plan.

The U.S. official added that "the reality is there are some issues in the region that are topical and the NPT is one of them. I fully expect that to be discussed at the highest levels" while she is in Egypt, which has been leading the opposition against indefinite extension of the arms control treaty. The United States has been yielding in its efforts to make the NPT permanent.

Egypt has said that it cannot support the NPT's indefinite extension as long as Israel is not a party to the treaty, therefore forswearing nuclear weapons and placing its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Egypt is also a main proponent of a nuclear weapons free zone for the Middle East.

The U.S. official said "the purpose of the ambassador's trip is not to ask Israel to join the NPT. But, as you know, the United States believes that the idea of a weapons

free zone in the Middle East is an idea that should be pursued."

Ms. Albright will also be visiting Palestinian camps near Jericho and Ramallah in the West Bank.

"One of the things she will be talking about is the way in which the U.N. system is operating to assist the Palestinians in their development... she will go to the West Bank to see what activities UN-RWA (U.N. Relief and Works Agency) is pursuing and meet with Palestinian officials there," the official said.

The ambassador did not request a meeting with Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat because "the purpose of her trip is not to involve herself in the Middle East peace process. Rather, she will talk about the issues before the U.N., such as UN-RWA activities in the West Bank, the way in which Israel has been unable to fully join the U.N. by being excluded from regional groupings, and the unhelpful, anti-Israeli character of some of the General Assembly resolutions," the official said.

"It's very much a U.N.-oriented trip, not designed to get involved in the daily negotiations and discussions between the Israeli government and Palestinians," the official stated.

The ambassador is looking forward to representing the United States at the Czech ceremony, the official added, "given the fact that she is from Czechoslovakia and she now represents the United States. Being able to celebrate America's liberation of the Czech Republic is a particular pleasure for her," he said.



ALGERIAN-INDONESIAN DEAL: Algerian documents on a bilateral agreement on economic and technical cooperation at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry in Bandung on Friday. Alatas to get ready before exchanging signed

Health services in Iraq are near total collapse — doctor

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "What I saw in terms of suffering and deprivation will stay with me for a very long time," said a Jordanian doctor of Iraqi patients and the country's health infrastructure, which he described as faced with a near total collapse.

Having recently visited several Iraqi clinics and hospitals, Dr. Mohammad Al Farek described what he witnessed with horror. "The worst thing that could happen to an Iraqi nowadays is to fall ill," he told the Jordan Times in an interview. He said very basic medical supplies including cotton, antiseptics, antibiotics, etc. were not available in the most public hospitals and clinics and that if available in the black market, they are too highly priced for average Iraqi to purchase.

Sanctions imposed against Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 have crippled the embargoed country's economy and rendered essentials in life either unavailable or too expensive.

"If you're fortunate enough to find enough insulin for your diabetic child today to tie him over a period of one month, the price will be many times more your salary," said Dr. Farek.

Iraqi doctors often resort to diagnosing cases without the necessary laboratory tests. The medicines they prescribe are often the very few ones available at the time. By the time they get patients with chronic illnesses stabilised on any one medicine, it soon becomes unavailable through regular channels, Dr. Farek said.

"I find it very difficult to decide who is the most hardly hit by this widespread shortage; the elderly, the children, the hypertensives, the epileptics, the diabetics, or the ones who suffer from an acute surgical condition for which surgery cannot be performed in view of the lack of anaesthetics and surgical sutures... if and when available, each X-ray film is used for three different patients at one time," the doctor said.

But an Iraqi decision to refuse a United Nations Security Council offer for partial Iraqi oil sale for the purpose of humanitarian use drew lots of criticism from politicians and human rights activists alike.

While Jordan and other countries considered the U.N. resolution as a step towards total lifting of the oil-sale embargo against Iraq, Iraqi officials and parliamentarians considered the move as an American and British plot to undermine the

country's sovereignty over its resources.

Dr. Farek insists that the suffering people of Iraq should be helped regardless of their country's politics. "The patients I encountered in Iraq were not consulted when Iraq invaded Kuwait; they should not pay the price for their government's policies. While these Iraqi patients seem to have chosen to die quietly with pride, the rest of the world, especially the medical community, should not stand by," he said.

"I should like to invoke the principles of our human civilisation to stop this cruelty against a whole nation. Our pledge to save human lives and to care for and love the sick, should motivate us to save human lives in Iraq. All medical and humanitarian agencies around the world should lend a hand to the patients of Iraq, who desperately need assistance now," the doctor said.

Dr. Farek took along with him to Baghdad a container of medicine sufficient for approximately 100 patients for a period of one month. While such a modest supply of medicine does not stretch far or long enough in such a desperate situation, but many similar donations for humanitarian aid could make a difference, he said.

RJ awaits decision on request for Libya flights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, was expecting a final response to its request to operate flights for pilgrims from Libya to Saudi Arabia at a United Nations Sanctions Committee meeting late Friday, aviation sources said.

The airline had scheduled about 10 flights from Libyan airports to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia beginning early Saturday, but it would be difficult to launch the first flight as planned if the permission was issued late Friday, the sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, rejected reports that the committee had turned down the Jordanian request.

"The airline has not received a formal answer to its request, and it expects tonight's meeting to decide whether it is accepted or rejected," said one source.

According to the sources, the United States was "the sole objector" to the Jordanian request, presented through the Kingdom's permanent mission to the U.N. in New York. Given that the U.S. has veto powers, the fate of the request could be rejected.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Thursday the U.S. believed that the 45 flights planned by Egyptair to ferry Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia this year were sufficient.

"We believe that the exception that the U.N. Sanctions Committee made last week to permit Egyptair to ferry 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to Mecca this year will suffice," Mr. Burns said at a State Department briefing.

"It is a good step, a local, reasonable, humanitarian step for the international community to take," said the spokesman. "And we're not convinced that it's necessary for government airlines outside of Libya to be given this exception."

Mr. Burns said the U.S. maintained this position at the U.N.

Libya is under United Nations sanctions imposed three years ago for its refusal to extradite two Libyans who, the U.S. and Britain say, were involved in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner in 1988.

The plane exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec. 22, 1988, killing 270 people.

Libya rejects the U.S. and British charges and says that it is willing to send the two Libyans for trial in the International Court of Justice in the Hague but not to the U.S. or Britain.

The sanctions on the North African country include an air embargo, which has grounded all international flights into and out of Libya.

However, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi challenged the embargo this year, asserting the religious right of every Muslim to perform the Hajj pilgrimage. He sent a Libyan airplane carrying pilgrims from Tripoli to Jeddah on April 22.

On the same day, the U.N. Sanctions Committee — which groups all members of the Security Council — approved Egyptian flights to ferry Libyan pilgrims.

The Egyptian national carrier is continuing its flights, but it was highly unlikely that it would be able to complete the allowed 45 flights before the Saudi authorities close down Jeddah airport a few days before the culmination of the pilgrimage as they do every year.

This year's pilgrimage falls around May 10, and Jeddah airport closes down around May 7.

The American objection to the request, according to political analysts, appears to have more to do with Washington's stand towards Libya than the fact that it was a Jordanian request.

"Given the warmth in Jordanian-U.S. ties it is unlikely that Washington is objecting to the request because it is Jordanian," said an analyst. "It is more probable that the U.S. does not want to give what it sees as further concessions to Libya."

Turkey protests Eurocouncil vote

ANKARA (R) — Turkey denounced on Thursday a council of Europe resolution to suspend it from the organisation because of its military offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

"The resolution passed by the Council of Europe is of an unacceptable nature, inappropriate, unfair and never applicable," government spokesman Yildirim Aktuna told reporters after the cabinet discussed the issue.

The council's 34 member states approved a resolution in Strasbourg asking its governing committee of ministers to suspend Turkey unless it showed significant progress towards a withdrawal from Iraq before a June 26 European Union summit.

It also called for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem and democratic reforms of Turkey's constitution and laws.

The European Parliament has set similar conditions before it will ratify a customs

agreement between Turkey and the European Union.

Turkey's parliamentary delegation in Strasbourg said it would no longer take part in any activities and would refuse all cooperation with the Strasbourg-based council.

That prompted parliamentarian assembly President Angel Martinez to issue a statement regretting the delegation's move.

"I find the recommendation moderate and reasonable, very respectful towards Turkey but also towards our organisation and the principles it defends," Mr. Martinez said.

Rather than isolating Turkey, the parliamentary resolution was intended to leave the door open to those working for a modern and democratic Turkey in the heart of Europe, he said.

But Mr. Aktuna said he saw things differently. "No entity has the right to dictate to the Turkish parliament..." he said, noting that

the coalition government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was preparing what it calls a "democratisation package" and would set its own timetable.

He said the operation in northern Iraq was aimed against "terrorism" and would be limited in duration.

Turkey sent 35,000 troops into northern Iraq on March 20 to attack bases used by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in its separatist insurgency in southeast Turkey.

Turkey, which is under strong Western pressure to end the operation, says it has withdrawn about 23,000 troops.

The council has adopted several resolutions demanding that Turkey improve its human rights record, but this would be the first time it imposed sanctions on Ankara.

The only country the council ever suspended was Greece, in protest at its military dictatorship in the 1970s.

'Most pressing' Palestinian needs being met

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "The most pressing development needs of the Palestinian people are starting to be met" as a result of accelerated implementation of the World Bank's Emergency Rehabilitation Project (ERP), said World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa Caio Koch-Weser.

The World Bank's Emergency Rehabilitation Project is expected to be completed a year ahead of original plans, Koch-Weser said in a news release April 26. "Close to \$100 million in commitments are expected by end-June 1995 for sub-projects under the ERP, bringing the number of contracts to be awarded to a record high, well ahead of the project's completion date of mid-1996."

The bank has also channelled \$95 million from donors to the Palestinians since June 1994 through the Johan Jorgen Holst Peace Fund (Holst Fund). The fund was established in January 1994 to cover the gap in the Palestinian Authority's budget expenditures.

"The speed-up achieved in implementing the Bank's Emergency Rehabilitation Project, and the stepped-up implementation of other donors' programmes, means that the most pressing development needs of the Palestinian people are starting to be met," World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa Caio Koch-Weser said.

"At the same time, the Holst Fund has helped ensure that the Palestinian Authority remained solvent in its initial stages, by acting as a conduit for about \$95 million in donor assistance so far. Continued donor support to

Palestinian self-rule areas. Although closures of the West Bank and Gaza have hindered implementation on the ground, close to \$100 million in commitments are expected by end-June 1995 for sub-projects under the ERP, bringing the number of contracts to be awarded to a record high, well ahead of the project's completion date of mid-1996."

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"At the same time, the Holst Fund has helped ensure that the Palestinian Authority remained solvent in its initial stages, by acting as a conduit for about \$95 million in donor assistance so far. Continued donor support to

the Holst Fund is vital to ensure that the Palestinian Authority's operations are uninterrupted," Mr. Koch-Weser added.

The ERP As part of its development activities in the West Bank and Gaza, the World Bank supports the \$128 million ERP projects designed to help rehabilitate infrastructure in major sectors such as roads, power, education, water, and sanitation. Despite initial delays, caused by the process of hiring management consultants, over \$57 million have been committed in the form of signed contracts and 103 sub-projects are underway under ERP.

Another 85 sub-projects, valued at over \$70 million, are out to bid or under bid preparation. Among the latter sub-projects are the rehabilitation of the Salah Edin road in Gaza and the upgrading of inter-urban roads in the West Bank.

Along with World Bank financing of \$30 million, project co-financiers include the Saudi Fund and the Arab Fund, each pledging \$30 million. Another \$10 million was pledged by the Kuwait Fund. Denmark and Switzerland will provide \$18 million and \$10 million respectively.

The Holst Fund By ensuring regular pay-

ment of Palestinian Central Administration salaries and key operating costs at a time when no other means for doing so existed, the Bank-managed Holst Fund has made a major contribution to the development of the West Bank and Gaza. Proceeds go through the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) and the Palestinian Ministry of Finance and cover various budgetary expenditures. Among those, the full payroll of the Central Administration in Gaza and the West Bank, including teachers and medical staff.

The Holst Fund also covers medical supplies, office equipment, welfare expenses, selected non-governmental organisation salaries and other start-up costs. In addition, the fund provides one of the main sources of finance for the Gaza Clean-Up Programme.

The Holst Fund has been replenished twice, with contributions by 17 countries totalling \$105 million. The largest donors are the United States, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The fund is expected to be replenished following the Paris Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee meeting of donors on April 27-28, 1995. With the replenishment, the Holst

Fund will continue to be the main start-up and recurrent cost financing channel for the Palestinian Authority through the end of 1995.

In June, the World Bank is planning to present for approval by its Board another project aimed at supporting Palestinian development needs. The proposed Education and Health Rehabilitation Project, the costs of which are currently estimated at over \$100 million, is to help upgrade equipment in schools and health facilities. It is also aimed at improving quality standards in those sectors and will help develop the Ministries of Education and Health.

AP adds from Paris: The Palestinian Authority and donor nations on Thursday reached agreement on a plan to fund the authority's operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the end of the year, sources said.

The accord will help meet an expected \$136 million deficit by the authority that is depending on donors to survive, sources close to the talks said.

Donor nations had agreed to finance the operating budget of the Palestinian Authority, which oversees the autonomous region set up after the 1993 peace agreement between Palestinians and Israel.

'Men need to see brides before marriage'

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) men should be allowed to see their brides before marriage as the custom of simply exchanging photographs could lead to divorce, Al Bayan daily reported on Friday.

"We should follow Islamic rules which allow a man to see his bride before marriage in the presence of their relatives," it quoted Jamal Al

Bah, director of the State Marriage Fund, as saying in a lecture to Ras Al Khaimah.

"To see each other through other people or photographs does not conform to Islamic law and has led to an increase in divorce."

Most native women in the UAE and other Gulf states still wear veils on their faces in line with long-standing bedouin traditions.

Men seeking to marry local women can either see their faces in photographs provided by their families or be told by relatives what they look like.

Mr. Bah, whose fund was created four years ago to encourage marriages between UAE nationals through providing grants to bridegrooms, blasted native parents for demanding high dowries for their daughters.

He said such dowries, the money paid by a bridegroom for his bride, and excessive wedding expenses were causing marital problems.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Harry and Hendersons
15:00	Witness to Survival
15:30	Road to Avonlea
16:00	Gillette World Sport
16:30	Tarazon
17:00	Le Pain Noir
19:00	News in French
19:15	Fa Uti Pa Revers
19:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
20:00	Life in the Freezer
20:30	The Nanny
21:00	Drive the World
21:15	Cape Rebel
22:00	News in English
Feature film: "The Law and Jake Wade"	
00:59	Tatamara
PRAYER TIMES	
04:23	Fajr
05:48	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:18	Maghrib
20:43	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Tel. 637785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441.	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
St. Ann International Church Tel. 652526.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528.	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures are expected to drop and humidity for rise with clouds appearing at different altitudes. Scattered showers are also expected with winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.	

Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	14 / 25
Aqaba	18 / 32
Deserts	10 / 27
Jordan Valley	17 / 32
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Emergency	119
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Jabal Amman Maternity	642412
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musader Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abad	661775/7
Al-Ahli, Abad	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	77111/26
Army, Marks	851611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602230/30
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)98332
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)990560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IBRID:	
Prince Basm Hospital	(02)73555
Grack Catholic Hospital	(02)72725
Electric Power	815615
HOSPITALS	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:15	Amman (RJ)
10:40	New Delhi (RJ)
10:55	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:25	Colombo (RJ)
16:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50	London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30	Vienna (RJ)
20:50	Paris (add) (RJ)
21:05	Paris (add) (RJ)
23:59	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:20	Beirut (ME)
12:10	Rome (A2)
13:40	Vienna (OS)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:25	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Amman (RJ)
10:40	Paris (add) (RJ)
11:30	Paris (add) (RJ)
11:55	Vienna (RJ)
12:15	New York Amsterdam (RJ)
12:35	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:40	Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
13:00	Aqaba, Brussels (RJ)
13:00	Madrid (RJ)
13:40	London (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
22:15	Lamara, (RJ)
22:25	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
00:45	Damascus (RJ)
05:10	London (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:45	Beirut (ME)
12:10	Rome (A2)
13:40	Vienna (OS)

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Home News

waits decision on test for Libya flight

Libya is under United Nations sanctions imposed last year for its role in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. The plane involved in the crash was a Pan Am jetliner in the 270 people.

Libya rejects the U.S. charges and says it is willing to send the plane to the Hague for trial in the national court of justice or Britain.

The sanctions on the African country include an embargo, which has grounded all international flights into and out of Libya.

However, Libya has rejected the embargo, which is seen as a major obstacle to the country's economic recovery.

On the same day, the Security Council, which groups all members of the United Nations, approved a resolution to lift the embargo on Libya.

The Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram reported that the UN Security Council had decided to lift the embargo on Libya.

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Queen praises Bani Hamida project as source of pride, creative inspiration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opened the annual Spring Bani Hamida Exhibition at Deir Ghbar, a Royal Court statement said.

The Queen, who toured the exhibition, was particularly impressed by the unique and innovative display created by the artists. She praised the Bani Hamida project, saying that it continues to be a source of pride and creative inspiration for the country.

The exhibition, whose theme is "Doors of Opportunity," is sponsored by the Shaheen Group Company AIFCO and will run until May 6.

It includes rugs, cushions and wall hangings woven with natural vegetable dyes.

The Bani Hamida Project was founded by the U.S.-based Save the Children Federation in 1985, which was invited by Queen Noor to establish in Jordan a rural based income-generating handicrafts project. The project benefits more than 1,200 women and their families of the Bani Hamida tribe living in 13 villages on the Bani Hamida Mountain in the Madaba district.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Mrs. Hind Nasser and Mrs. In'am Mufti, was received by Mr. Mark Eddington, Middle East area director of Save the Children, Mrs. Natasha Shawarib, the Bani Hamid project manager, Mr. and Mrs. Jafar Toukan and board members of the Jordanian Contractors Association.



NEARLY 2,000 people, led by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, departed for the Bani Hamida project, including the secretary-general of the Ministry of Youth and other officials, participate in a march. Entitled "The Leaders' March," it kicked off from the Educational Development Schools in Swelch and ended at the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped. The march sought to raise funds for the Deaf Welfare Society. The society, which includes 171 students members, was established in 1974 to care for deaf students and provide educational and cultural services to them.

Polish team ends visit after talks to revive panel on bilateral cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Polish delegation ended a two-day visit to Jordan on Friday after talks with officials on reviving a joint commission on bilateral cooperation and enhancing trade and economic ties with the Kingdom.

The delegation, headed by Jerzy Kaminski, under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, was the first Polish team to visit Jordan since 1991.

Mr. Kaminski, who held talks with Foreign Minister Secretary-General Nayef Haddad, Ministry of Water and Irrigation under-secretary Mohammad Bani Hani and Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan, said his country was keen on reviving cooperation with Jordan.

Jordanian-Polish relations remained largely in limbo since the late 80s when political changes swept the former communist country. Polish diplomats said that as a result of the changes within the country, the government was not able to focus much on Poland's external relations, and that now Warsaw was trying to rebuild ties.

"Poland is a special situation," said senior Polish diplomat here. "It is in a transitional stage, and it would take some time before we could hope to see our bilateral relations improve."

One of the key themes for Mr. Kaminski's talks here was the revival of a Jordanian-Polish economic commission, which last met in 1991.

"We would like to have the commission meet late this year or early next year," said Mr. Kaminski. "We have invited a Jordanian team to visit Warsaw soon to discuss the meeting."

The deputy minister said he also renewed an invitation extended by Polish President Lech Walesa to His Majesty King Hussein to visit Poland.

Mr. Kaminski said Poland welcomed the Middle East peace process and hoped that it would lead to comprehensive peace in the region.

Poland would like to participate in the economic development of the region through offering technology and expertise. "It is difficult to raise Polish capital for projects in the Middle East at this point," the deputy minister told the Jordan Times, noting that Poland itself was short of capital.

But, he said, Poland enjoys a relative edge in technology related to railroads, pipelines, highways and industrial equipment and this could be employed by Middle Eastern countries.

"We would like to participate in the Iraq-Jordan pipeline," he said, referring to plans to lay a 600-kilometre pipeline to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan instead of the present trucking system.

The deputy minister noted that the transport and industrial sectors were key areas for development as the region moves to an era of peace and

Economists call for creating a balance between consumer, producer protection

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Leading economists Thursday called for creating a balance between consumers and producers to cope with the political and economic developments in the Kingdom.

In a two-day conference entitled "Protecting the Consumer and the Producer," held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC), Mohammad Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, addressed the gathering saying the general understanding among the public is that there is a conflict of interest between the protection of consumers and producers.

But in reality, he said, the two subjects are connected from an economic perspective.

"Balance needs to be provided between consumers and producers in order for them to achieve economic and social harmony in the society," Dr. Nabulsi said.

Amman Chamber of Commerce representative Mohammad Muhtasib, who delivered a speech on behalf of ACC President Haidar Murad, also stressed on the importance of arriving at such a balance, saying that several institutes, organisations and the media emphasise the need for consumer protection and neglect the issue of protecting the producers.

"Hopefully participants will focus on eliminating the image that producers want to exploit consumers so that the producers can efficiently manufacture," Mr. Muhtasib said.

Hind Abdul Jabbar, president of the National Federation of Professional Women's Club (BPWC), which organised the conference, said the issue of protection was selected because "consuming has become an important aspect in our daily lives."

"The private sector is the base of our Jordanian economy, and we aim at bringing back the trust between the producer and the consumer," she said.

Ms. Abdul Jabbar reviewed the themes of the three previous annual conferences organised by the BPWC and the club's present and future projects.

In'am Mufti, president of the National Federation of BPWC, said that the challenges facing the Kingdom require that consumer and producer protection be addressed.

"This issue should be the main concern of people because it will affect our future, politically and economically, and economic institutes will have a large role to play," Ms. Mufti said.

Papers presented at Thursday's session included "Consumer Protection in the Service Sector," by Marwan Awad, "Consumer Protection in the Products Sector," by Mohammad Halayqah, "The Sales Tax Law and its Effects on the Consumer and Producer," by Hamzeh Haddad, "The Jordanian Society's Consumption Behaviour, and the Role of the Consumer Protection Association (CPA)," by Mohammad Obaidat.

CDD rescues 3 men trapped under rubble

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Civil Defence Department (CDD) teams rescued three Egyptian workers trapped under a construction rubble in Wadi Abdoun over the weekend, CDD sources said Friday.

A CDD official said that the three workers were digging a four-metre hole under a house in Al Quesseh suburb late Thursday night when one side of the hole collapsed burying the three men.

"When our rescue teams arrived to the scene they were able to pull out two of the three men within two hours," the official told the Jordan Times.

He said the third man was rescued Friday evening.

"The third man was trapped under a huge rock, and we had to dig from the other sides of the house to pull the rock out of the hole to save him," the official said adding that the entire rescue operation lasted 20 hours.

The CDD official said that it was two early to determine the cause of the collapse and that "it was possible that the way the workers dug the hole might have caused the cave-in."

According to the official, all three men were taken to Al Bashir Hospital and were listed in fair to good condition.

The CDD official identified the injured as Rabi Hussein, 22, Sayed Ajami, 29, and Ramadan Al Sayed, 33.

This is the second such incident within two months to occur in Amman. On March 11, two Egyptian workers were killed and a third was seriously injured when a dirt wall of a sewerage ditch they were digging caved in on top of the three men.

Suheimat lauds court efforts to speed up judicial process

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the Judicial Council, Khleif Suheimat, has lauded the diligence of the judges of the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice and their judicious and prompt application of the law.

In a letter addressed to the judges at both courts, Mr. Suheimat noted that 617 cases were referred to the two courts since last December, and most of them were swiftly adjudicated.

Last month the Court of Cassation repealed a State Security Court verdict convicting eight Jordanians of charges ranging from plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein to membership in an illegal organisation.

On March 13 the court cleared the defendants (including three who were sentenced to death) of all the charges and ordered their immediate release.

Last week, the Higher Court of Justice revoked a decision taken by the Director of the Press and Publications Department, Mohammad Amin, in February to suspend the Arabic weekly Hawadeth.

Al Sa'ah for failing to appoint a fully accredited chief editor.

The judges in the two courts have been conducting their duties promptly and safeguarding the public interest in line with directives from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, said Mr. Suheimat, who heads both the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice.

Within four months, the two courts were able to deal with all the cases referred to them as well as requests for the interpretation of laws, Mr. Suheimat said.

Australian senatorial team arrives for talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the Australian Senate Michael Beahan Friday arrived in Amman via the King Hussein Bridge at the head of a delegation on a three-day visit to Jordan. Senator Beahan is scheduled to meet the speakers of Parliament Saturday and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday for talks on parliamentary cooperation and the Middle East peace process, according to Australian embassy sources in Amman Friday.

Sensor Beahan, who was touring archaeological sites Friday, is expected to discuss means of bolstering Jordanian-Australian relations, trade between the two countries and other relevant topics, according to the sources.

Mr. Beahan, who is expected to leave Jordan Sunday evening, came from the occupied territories which were part of his tour of the region. He was welcomed at the bridge by members of the Jordanian Senate and local government officials.

His visit to Jordan follows that of Australian Minister of Trade Bob McMullan in February during which he inaugurated the Australian Trade Commission regional office.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- Pilgrims arrive in Medina**
MEDINA (Petra) — Jordanian pilgrims Friday arrived here in preparation for the next portion of their journey to Mecca on Tuesday, according to Samih Athamneh, head of the Jordanian pilgrims teams. While in Medina pilgrims will visit the tomb of Prophet Mohammad and other Islamic and historical sites, in addition to hearing religious, educational and cultural lectures. The pilgrims' convoys are accompanied by ambulances, reserve buses, mobile mechanic workshops and other support staff. The head of the Jordanian medical teams accompanying the pilgrims, Talal Khreisat, said 40 doctors are on board in addition to several assistant pharmacists and nurses. Dr. Khreisat said some of the pilgrims are suffering from laryngitis, respiratory infections, sun strokes and stomach cramps, common diseases affecting pilgrims.
- Symposium to tackle effects of immigrant husbands on family**
AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a two-day symposium on the impact of husband immigration on the family will be held here today. Taking part in the symposium, which is organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women in cooperation with the Arab League, will be representatives of public institutions and non-governmental organisations. Participants will discuss three working papers on reflections of the husbands' immigration on the Jordanian statistical status, including size and features of families of Jordanian immigrants, in addition to a paper on legislative framework and services offered to families of immigrants.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- SPRING EXHIBITION**
 - * The Queen Alia Fund for Social Development spring exhibition at Beit Al Bawadi of "Rugs and Ceramics," Medina Munawara Street.
- JEWELLERY DISPLAY**
 - * An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khamash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at Darat Al Funun.
- LECTURE**
 - * Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Mutual Relationship Between Music and Drawing" by Hamid Yassin at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Lowdebeh at 6:00 p.m.
- EXHIBITION**
 - * Exhibition of paintings of Rizaq Abdul Hadi at Baladna Art Gallery.
 - * Exhibition of contemporary calligraphy at the National Museum of Fine Arts.
 - * Annual spring exhibition: "Doors of Opportunity" by the Bani Hamida at the Jordanian Contractors Association Building, Abdoun (Tel: 658696).
 - * Exhibition of paintings by Lebanese artist Karim Al Hage at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - * Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
 - * Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
 - * Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artists Sa'ad Haddadin at Orfall Art Gallery.
 - * Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
 - * A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, InterContinental Hotel.
 - * Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhaba at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

QAF's Beit Al Bawadi unfolds spring exhibition

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With a striking blend of tradition and modern design, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) opens its exhibition doors for the spring show of "Rugs and Ceramics."

The latest line of ceramics by QAF workshops in Amman and Wadi Musa draw on Islamic and archaeological motifs. One of the new collections focuses on mosaic patterns conjuring images of Madaba's rich heritage.

In another display, terracotta, or unglazed red clay, incorporate touches of colour as well as Arabic calligraphy offering Koranic verses and modern geometric designs.

According to Maha Farraj Otaiqui, manager of QAF's Beit Al Bawadi, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma took the initiative to establish the first QAF ceramics training centre in Amman. Since that time, the craft has enjoyed a revival and has advanced significantly.

"Each piece is not only uniquely styled, but has a utility as well," said Mrs. Farraj Otaiqui, pointing to medium-size mosaic pot turned into an ornate table lamp.

Delighted by the immediate popularity of the mosaic collection, Mrs. Farraj Otaiqui said, "There is even a lot of outside interest, and we are already getting orders from abroad."

The collection of mosaic ceramics also includes bowls, vases, ashtrays and plates.

While in the past, Jordanian crafts were purchased predominantly by tourists and foreigners resident in the Kingdom, the Beit Al Bawadi manager says this is no longer the case.

"Our crafts are not only popular items for tourists, but local residents are interested in them as well."

The Bawadi exhibition is organised in cooperation with Haddad Furniture, Orient House and Bamboo House. Contributing furniture, baskets and shelves, the three companies have helped to give the exhibition a home-feel.

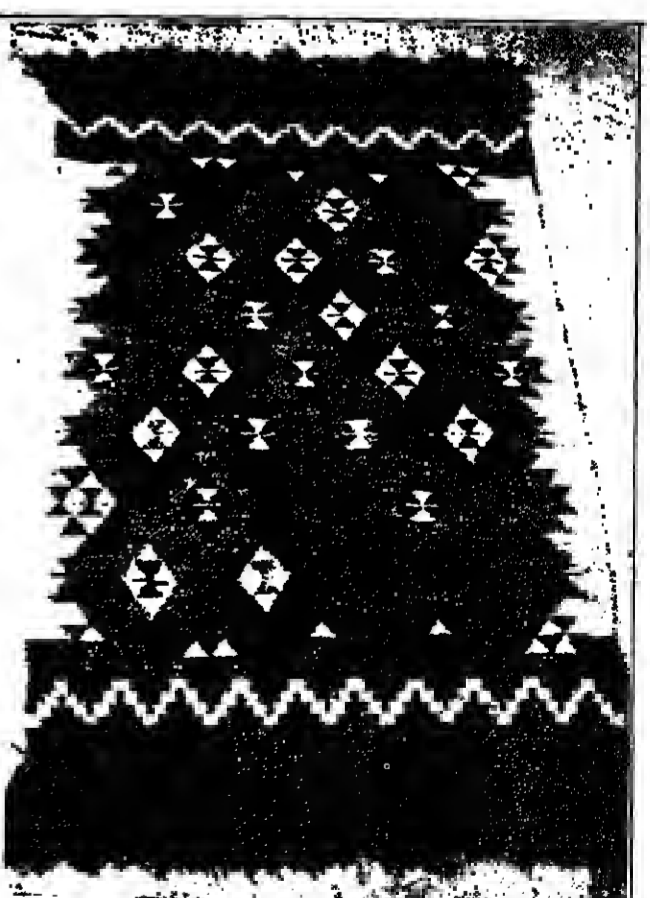
Across the showroom floor another collection features Petra pottery, a specialty of the QAF ceramic centre in Wadi Musa. Made of actual Petra clay, the deep rose-coloured ceramic pieces are copies of traditional pottery found in the area.

Rugs, another important income generating project of QAF, include natural soothing tones sure to complement the decor of the modern Jordanian home, as well as more traditional brightly coloured rugs splashed with reds, yellows and greens which have long been a favourite amongst the Kingdom's hedouin tribes.

Providing income for over 750 women from impoverished areas in Jordan, Bawadi rugs appeal to all tastes, and special orders can be made upon request.

"The rugs are produced in three major centres: the Madaba area, the Petra area and Karak, and in addition, a location in Mafraq is used as a dyeing centre," said Mrs. Farraj Otaiqui, adding that training centres in these regions give seminars on an ongoing basis to enhance the abilities of weavers, many of whom are women.

Ceramics and rugs are only a couple of the QAF projects established to provide much needed income to poor rural communities.



A rug from one of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development income-generating projects.

Other ventures include embroidery, food and dairy processing plants, agricultural training and assistance and children's clubs.

Together these projects provide a source of revenue for roughly 4,000 Jordanians.

The Bawadi exhibition centre is located behind the new QAF building on Medina Al Munawarra Street. The exhibit will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until May 2.

Over 100 die in disastrous S. Korean subway gas blast

TAEGU, South Korea (AFP) — A powerful gas explosion ripped through morning rush-hour in this southeastern city Friday, killing more than 100 people and injuring 190 in South Korea's worst-ever peacetime blast.

Anger and grief gripped the third largest city in the country, with bereaved families wailing outside mortuaries and angry residents cursing the lack of safety measures, an AFP journalist on the scene said.

More than half the dead were children on their way to school when the underground blast occurred.

"I've never seen such a thing in my life. It's like a bombed-out war zone," a police spokesman told AFP by phone.

The 7:50 a.m. (2250 GMT, Thursday) explosion tore through a subway construction site at an intersection, tossing metal girders and plates into the air like matchsticks. They crushed passing vehicles packed with commuters.

Taegu City authorities told journalists that nine hours after the blast they had

accounted for 99 dead and 190 injured. Fifty-three of them were school children.

But it was feared that the death toll would rise drastically as rescuers pumped out water gushing from a ruptured main and prepared to pull out more bodies from under mangled iron beams and plates.

Some 30 vehicles plunged into a yawning gap, left when the girders and plates covering the 600-metre-long span of temporary road, collapsed. A commuter bus fell in and was engulfed in flames with an unknown number of people trapped inside. A second crowded bus was crushed by falling steel.

The liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) blast sent flames soaring into the sky, destroyed four buildings and damaged 10 other structures. More than 1,000 panicked residents fled, witnesses said.

The blast uprooted 20 power-poles, triggering a black-out, while ruptured water mains flooded the site, hampering rescuers' efforts.

The explosion was so powerful that the girders and plates were tossed 50 metres

into the air before crashing down on buildings, cars and passengers.

Television reports said many of the hospitalised were in critical condition, and showed harrowing scenes of inconsolable mothers collapsing as their children's names were posted on morgue lists.

Police blamed human error and said they suspected the explosion occurred when workers moving an excavator at a construction site accidentally ruptured a urban gas main, causing a leak which was ignited by a welding torch in the subway.

"I was waiting for a green light at the intersection when I heard a bang. I saw a cloud of dust rise and other cars hurried into the air. The next moment, I saw the driver in the car in front of me crushed to death under an iron beam," said a 31-year-old company employee, Lee Ju-Chang.

"I was arranging books on the shelf when I heard a bang and fainting. When I came to my senses, I saw a huge flame and black smoke billowing into the sky," a 51-year-old book store owner, Choi

Byung-Gil, said.

Rescuers were seen pulling a bloodied body from a car crushed under mangled iron girders at the construction site, at the bottom of which charred bodies from a crumpled, incinerated bus were seen floating on waist-deep water.

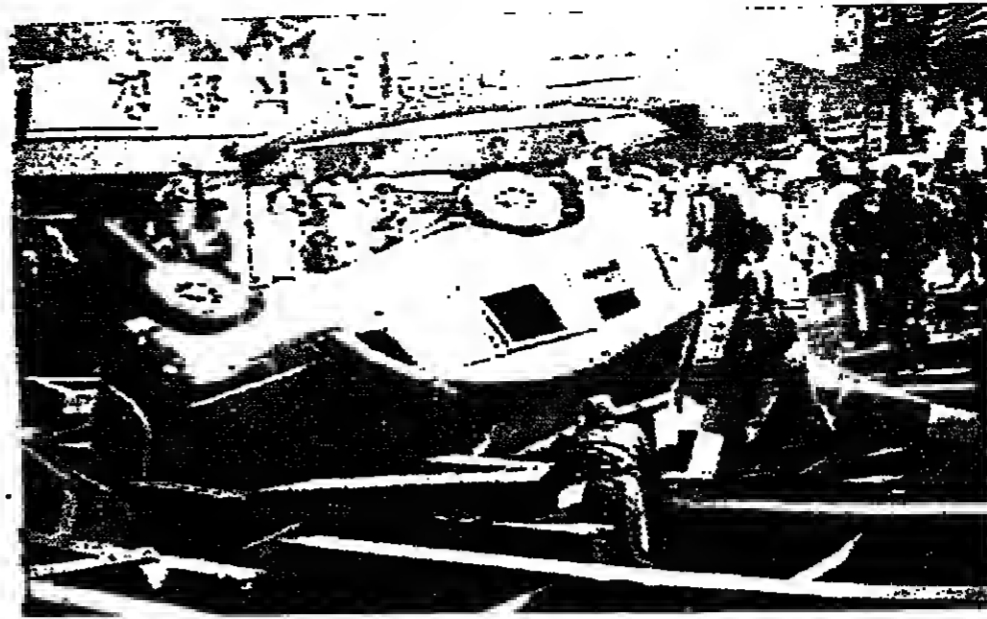
Television showed dozens of toppled, crumpled and blackened vehicles littered around the scene with schoolbags and shoes in pools of blood.

Taegu's Youngnam Middle School alone confirmed 10 dead and 91 students missing — 28 first graders, 34 second graders and 29 third graders.

Helicopters, construction workers, police and ambulances crowded the accident site, where hnrned and squashed cars looked as if they had been mashed by compacting machines.

Dozens of fire trucks and 300 rescuers were rushed to the scene but it took half an hour for the first group, blocked by heavy traffic, to reach the scene.

Some 2,000 rescuers, including police and military



Police scramble to find victims among cars upturned by a violent explosion in a subway construction site under a busy thoroughfare in Taegu City during the morning rush hour Friday (AFP photo)

troops, many of them stripped to the waist, used cranes and crowbars to reach the trapped victims.

The explosion was a second major blast in five months in South Korea. An urban gas reservoir explosion in Seoul on Dec. 7 killed 12 and injured 65 others.

Friday's blast, which came two months ahead of crucial local elections, was expected to fuel criticism of the President Kim Young-Seam government, whose tenure has been marred by a series of

urban accidents, including a commuter bridge collapse Oct. 26 that left 32 dead.

Mr. Kim urgently sent Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo, to Taegu and ordered an all-out effort to rescue victims.

The opposition blamed the government's incompetence, calling for a thorough investigation and harsh punishment for those responsible.

Local press reports called the accident "one waiting to happen," blaming it on reckless construction without

coordination among related government agencies and private companies.

As a result, underground gas and water supply lines are often accidentally ruptured, the newspapers charged.

President Kim, stunned by the disastrous gas explosion in Taegu, Friday ordered emergency safety checks at construction sites and public facilities across South Korea, a spokesman said.

N. Korean diplomat repeats threat

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea is threatening to partially "defrost" its suspect nuclear facilities even after it returns to the negotiating table with the United States, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said Friday.

The agency, in a dispatch from New York, quoted Minister Han Song-Ryol of the North's mission to the United Nations as saying in a telephone interview that the move would be made because Washington had not changed its position.

It was the second time in three days that Mr. Han had relayed the warning through the international press. The first warning was carried in an interview with the leading Tokyo daily, Yomiuri Shimbun, Tuesday.

North Korea had threatened to restart its nuclear programme, frozen since November 1994 under the terms of the October Geneva accord, if it had not reached an accord on safer replacement light-water reactors (LWRs) by April 21.

But technical-level talks in Berlin last week failed after North Korea refused to accept replacement reactors from South Korea, which is the only country that has offered to pay for them.

"We cannot continue the freeze on the nuclear facilities indefinitely, because the United States does not implement the promise to provide the light-water nuclear reactors," Mr. Han was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

"Our position is that we will defrost our nuclear facilities partially even after high-level talks resume since we do not expect anything particular from them (the U.S. side, which) has not shown any change in its position on the type of LWR."

Yonhap quoted Mr. Han as saying he did not have details of the "defrost" programme or a timetable, but that it would involve seven major elements such as a five-megawatt reactor and a radio-chemical laboratory.

Washington believes the five-megawatt reactors, if re-fueled, could produce up to five bombs, and that the "radio-chemical" laboratory is a reprocessing site.

In Washington Thursday, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci, who has asked the North Koreans to return to high-level talks in Geneva early in May, said there was no alternative to the South Korean reactor models.

South Korea is "the only place these reactors could come from," he said. "What I don't want to hear any more from the North Koreans is, 'We would prefer to have Russian reactors, German reactors, anyone's reactors other than South Korea's,'" he told a Washington luncheon.

Mr. Gallucci said he had received no reply to a proposal to hold new talks in Geneva on the agreement.

U.S. world leadership in peril — Clinton aide

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton's national security adviser said isolationists were pushing America to "the brink of unilateral disarmament" in foreign affairs by pressing for deep cuts in foreign aid.

In a tough speech at the National Press Club, Anthony Lake, Mr. Clinton's senior foreign adviser, tried to focus public attention on what the administration sees as dangerous budget-cutting plans in the Republican-led Congress.

Some lawmakers say Americans want their hard-earned tax dollars spent at home and seek to slash the proposed \$21 billion foreign affairs budget — about 1 per cent of the total U.S. budget — by \$1 billion or more.

"The United States could be on the brink of unilateral disarmament," not because of cuts in military spending but because "we are on the verge of throwing away — or at least damaging — many of

the tools America has used for 50 years to maintain our leadership in the world," Mr. Lake said.

He said those tools include conventional foreign aid, aid to emerging markets, economic support for peace, international peacekeeping and programmes to fight drugs and terrorism.

Mr. Lake argued that U.S. presidents since Harry Truman in the 1940s and 1950s had had those tools, with broad bipartisan support, to win the cold war and achieve prosperity.

"Now that success is in danger... Our policy of engagement in world affairs is under siege — and American leadership is in peril," he said.

He faulted "self-proclaimed devotees of democracy (who) ... laud American leadership but oppose American leadership of coalitions... they praise peace but then they cut our help to those who take risks for peace."

Political storm rages over Churchill archive sale

LONDON (R) — Conservative lawmaker Winston Churchill tried to calm a political storm over the British government's purchase of the papers of his famous grandfather, saying he could have netted twice as much in a public sale.

Mr. Churchill said his grandfather, the cigar-smoking World War II leader, was effectively bankrupt when he put the papers in trust and had wanted to sell them.

The £12.5 million (\$20 million) purchase prompted charges of "sleaze" by the Conservative government's opponents but was staunchly defended by Prime Minister John Major.

It later emerged the sale did not include the papers' copyright, allowing the family to profit further from them.

An official at the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which purchased the papers with funds raised by the new National Lottery, told Reuters: "The acquisition has not included copyright."

Churchill family trustee Ian Montrose said some copyrights were still with the family, some with the crown and some with other parties. "The subject matter of the sale was the physical papers. It (the copyright) doesn't concern the trustees."

Mark Fisher, arts spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, said this raised even more urgent questions about the valuation.

"I find that an extraordinary situation," Mr. Fisher said. "Most people will have understood that the £12.5 million was to purchase outright this important collection of documents."

Labour is also demanding a study on whether any of the pre-July 1945 documents already belongs to the nation, as Churchill held various government posts during the period.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown said Churchill would be "turning in his

grave" if he knew public money had been spent on buying his state papers.

The Daily Mirror — echoing a famous Churchill speech — said "never has so much been paid by so many to so few."

Many ordinary Britons were adamant the money — set aside for "good causes" — could have been put to better use.

Winston Churchill, the grandson, said that if the family and trustees had wanted to sell on the open market, they could have fetched £25 million (\$40.42 million).

He said his grandfather put them in trust for the benefit of male heirs in 1946 when "he had little more to his name than the suit he was standing up in, apart from this mountain of papers."

Mr. Major appended the purchase of the 1.5 million documents, among them the scripts of World War II speeches, including Churchill's famous pledge that "we shall fight on the beaches" and, during the Battle of Britain, that "this was their finest hour."

Mr. Major said the government did not buy anything it already owned. "There is no question whatsoever of lottery money having been used to purchase papers that are the property of the state," Mr. Major told the British parliament.

"The archive as a whole includes state papers and personal papers, many of which have no connection whatsoever with Sir Winston's time in government. The personal papers could have been freely sold to any number of buyers," he said.

The Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge will own the papers. Piers Brandon, keeper of the Churchill Archive Centre, said the papers fall into three main categories — private family letters, documents Churchill produced as prime minister, and official documents he took with him when he left office.

China party approves Beijing chief's resignation

BEIJING (R) — Beijing Communist Party chief Chen Xitong has resigned, accepting responsibility for a high-level corruption scandal that has rocked China's capital.

Mr. Chen, 65, who is also a member of the powerful politburo, China's top decision-making body, was replaced by fellow politburo member Wei Jianxing, Xinhua News Agency said Friday.

Mr. Chen, a former Beijing

mayor promoted to the politburo in 1992 for his hard-line stand against students in the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrations, has been at loggerheads with Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin for months.

Xinhua said the Communist Party Central Committee accepted Mr. Chen's resignation Thursday — only the second time a senior party official has reportedly stepped

down voluntarily. "It is learned that Chen resigned because he has unacceptable responsibilities for Wang Baosen's case," it said.

Mr. Chen had been fighting for his political life, grabbing front-page headlines in the Beijing daily since Beijing Senior Vice Mayor Wang committed suicide on a remote suburban hillside on April 4 after coming under investigation for economic crimes.

The suicide of Mr. Wang, 60 — one of two executive vice mayors, chairman of the city planning commission and a former aide to Mr. Chen — was only the second of a senior official since the purges of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

The only previous case was of late party chief Hu Yaobang, who stepped down in January, 1987 over student protests.

Japan soldiers punished for security leaks to cult

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese soldier was dismissed and another resigned from the army Friday after they leaked information to a religious cult about raids on the cult, the Defence Agency said.

The doomsday cult is being investigated over the Tokyo subway gas attack.

Takahisa Shirai, a 25-year-old sergeant, was dismissed

because of the leak and a separate count of misconduct. The other soldier, Shinya Asano, 26, also a sergeant, resigned after he was suspended for 30 days.

Both were members of a crack parachute regiment based in Chiba, a prefecture next to Tokyo, the Defence Agency said.

Sgt. Shirai was involved in an incident on March 19, the day before the subway gas attacks, when an incendiary device was thrown at offices of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth) sect. It appeared to be an attempt to fake an attack on the group.

The leak was discovered through an Aum publication issued soon after the first police raids on the sect,

which followed sarin nerve gas attacks on the Tokyo subway system that killed 12 people and injured more than 5,000.

The publication mentioned that 400 troops were on alert in Chiba on March 22, saying the information had been obtained from media contacts.

McNamara: Kennedy would have avoided Vietnam War

BOSTON (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara said he believes President John Kennedy would have withdrawn U.S. troops during the early stages of the Vietnam War had he lived.

Speaking at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Mr. McNamara said the former president's early foreign policy blunders in Cuba reinforced Kennedy's mind the necessity of avoiding war.

"He had a tremendous sensitivity both to maintaining security and to avoiding war," Mr. McNamara said. "I think he would have withdrawn. I say that not to enhance President Kennedy's

reputation," he said.

Mr. McNamara, promoting his book in Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam to a crowd of about 300, said his conclusions raise a troubling question.

"Why didn't we withdraw? That's a terrible question to confront," he said.

Mr. McNamara, who came to symbolise the protracted, controversial conflict in his seven years as secretary of defence under Presidents Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, said he now believes the war which killed 58,000 Americans until the 1975 U.S. withdrawal was a tragic mistake.

In the months before Kennedy's assassination in the

fall of 1963, the president expressed doubts the South Vietnamese could win the escalating war, and worried the United States could be dragged into the confrontation, he said.

Referring to his book, which he repeatedly urged the audience to read, Mr. McNamara matter-of-factly read through 11 lessons the war taught — the reasons he said he broke his silence since leaving office in 1968.

During a question-and-answer session, several members of the audience congratulated him for finally admitting his and America's errors and asked him questions about dates and declassified documents.

The anger over the Vietnam War that divided the United States during the late 1960s and early 1970s arose anew briefly when the last questioner said, to applause, that Mr. McNamara was "inherently evil" and she still could not understand his long silence.

"I didn't write the book for redemption. Only God can redeem me," Mr. McNamara calmly answered. "As a people we've got to address the problem (of war), and I don't think we are doing it," he said.

"We were doing it. We were addressing the problem," responded another woman.

Sri Lanka rebels hit army camp; 25 killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil rebels Friday responded to a military onslaught against them by launching a major assault on an army camp in northern Sri Lanka, killing at least 20 soldiers and losing five of their own fighters, officials said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas staged the pre-dawn attack on the Araly Point army camp on government-held Kays Islet, just off the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula, after arriving there in small boats, officials said.

"It was an infiltration by sea. We have suffered 20 dead, including an officer, and 14 wounded," a military official said, adding that at least five of the attackers were killed.

The rebels used rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and hand grenades to launch the attack, which came hours after the military destroyed two Tamil rebel bases in northern Vavuniya, killing at least 18 LTTE cadres.

Three soldiers were also killed in that military offensive.

Chief military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said a policeman was killed and another two were seriously wounded in another incident when Tiger rebels attacked a police station in

eastern Vavuniya Friday.

In another separate attack, a stalwart of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's Sri Lanka Freedom Party was shot dead by gunmen in Colombo Friday, police said, adding that they were probing the slaying, which came despite tight security.

The LTTE has been blamed for similar political killings of rival Tamils in the city in the past.

The slaying in the capital of Kumaratunga Vinohana — from the minority Tamil community — raised the death toll of violence over 24 hours, to a total of 27, officials said.

During the attack on Araly Point, LTTE guerrillas staged a diversion by launching a mortar barrage on the main Palay military complex on the Jaffna peninsula, officials said.

However, troops did not suffer casualties in the rebel fire on the base, officials said.

The clandestine LTTE radio station described the Araly Point attack as "a major success," referring to it as the "third major attack" on security forces since the LTTE ended a three-month-old truce with the authorities on April 19, to renew its separatist campaign.

"It was a major success. A lot of arms were captured from Araly Point. A one and half mile bunker line was

destroyed," Tamil sources quoted the Voice of Tigers radio as saying.

The Tigers had earlier blown up two navy vessels, killing 12 sailors and overran an army camp in the east, killing 29 soldiers.

The fresh fighting raised to 114 the number of people killed since renewed fighting broke out in the embattled northeast nine days ago. Among the dead were 70 security personnel, according to official figures.

The Araly Point army camp on the Kays Islet is one of the few military facilities located close to LTTE-held areas.

The islet itself is run jointly by security forces and a pro-government militia of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP).

EPDP leader, Douglas Devananda said his men were in charge of one section of the islet and "far away" from the army camp.

Mr. Devananda said he was "fed-up" with the current situation and warned that he would disband his militia if the government did not put forward a political package to resolve the ethnic conflict.

The upsurge in violence came as dozens of peace activists demonstrated outside a railway station here demanding an end to the

ethnic-bloodletting.

President Kumaratunga Thursday told a meeting of Sri Lanka's aid donors in Paris that her government was committed to the peace process despite the LTTE's unilateral decision to end the truce.

The LTTE is seeking to carve out an independent homeland in the northeast called Eelam for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils. More than 30,000 have died in the past two decades in the protracted ethnic conflict.

48 die in plane crash

A plane belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force carrying troops going on leave from northern Jaffna province crashed Friday killing all 48 people on board, the military said.

The pilot had radioed in saying one of the wings had caught fire and the military said it had ruled out the possibility of a rebel attack.

The crash happened at Palay military base in the northern rebel-held Jaffna peninsula.

The passengers, all military personnel, were on their way to Colombo for leave, the military said.

It said a technical fault was most likely to blame.

Lili Marlene, spellbinder on the front line

LONDON (AFP) — The poignant strains of Lili Marlene, the World War II song which cast its spell on German soldiers and will waft around Hyde Park here on May 6 on the anniversary of victory in Europe, VE-Day. British veterans have invited man singer Ute Lemper to join Vera Lynn, 75, "forces sweetheart" whose melodious voice boomed from line morale, in the war's most famous song.

In German, in English, French, adopted and adapted in a multitude of ways by whole armies and battalions, and taken also by civilians in Britain and the United States.

Marlene achieved phenomenal success in 1945. British journalist Alexander Chancellor, tracing the history of the song, says the words were dashed off by German poet Hans Leip, mobilised in the infantry, on the eve of a front line offensive in World War I. Music was not added until 1938, and the following year Cologne cabaret star Lale Andersen made a recording which had a limited success. Then in 1941 a German radio station had the idea of playing Lili Marlene for Rommel's Afrika Korps in North Africa. They loved it, and so did the Italian troops with them and the British forces chasing them both through the desert. The Germans used to relay it at full blast through loudspeakers aimed at the British lines each night. Uneasy about the seductive charm of the song, British staff H.Q. quickly commissioned an English version of the lyrics which soon became the army's "desert song." The English version evoking a couple separated by the war is toned down from the original, avoiding any hint that Marlene may have been a prostitute. The first recording in England was made in 1942 by Ann Shelton. Then Marlene Dietrich, husky-voiced star of the inter-war film The Blue Angel, did a recording in the United States; the definitive rendition enshrining Lili Marlene for posterity, British author Nigel Nicolson remembered in a recent BBC programme his most moving moment of the war in 1943 he was escorting German prisoners of war in Tunisia — they began to hum the tune as they marched along, and their British captors joined in. Chancellor wrote in The Sunday Telegraph that Lili Marlene was the ideal song to celebrate the victory of the Allies and reconciliation with the Germans. He suggested it ought to replace Beethoven's Ode To Joy as the European anthem.

McDonald's to speak Scots Gaelic

FORT WILLIAM, Scotland (AP) — A "carnival punn'd" and "slime-sneag" — a quarter-pounder and fries — are coming to the highlands as a new McDonald's outlet adopts Scots Gaelic. "We realised that a move to Fort William was taking us into the heart of the MacDonald clan country, but I fear we will need some help with the translations," McDonald's spokesman Robert Parker said. The shop is expected to open next year in Fort William, some 500 miles (800 kilometres) northwest of London. It would be the company's first outlet to adopt Scotland's ancient tongue. McDonald's hasn't worked out all the translations, but North Scottish news Services, a local news agency, suggested some possibilities: "Mac Mor" (Big Mac), "burger caise" (cheeseburger), "spealing eisig" (fillet of fish), "pai uhhal teth" (hot apple pie) and "Mac ceapaire isean" (mccchicken sandwich), and coca-cola (coca-cola).

Poli: Some Italian ministry phones are 'dead ringers'

ROME (AP) — Patience is a virtue. It's also a necessity for people calling Italian bureaucrats. A poll by the Rome newspaper Il Messaggero found that callers to government ministries had to wait an average of 5.8 rings before they get an answer. The quickest answers were at the ministries of Public Instruction and Post and Telecommunications, which picked up after one ring. The worst: "Agriculture, Environment and Industry" ministries, which did not respond after 13 rings and then the line went dead.

World News

Lili Marlene, spellbinder on the front line

LONDON (AFP) — Lili Marlene, the 21-year-old German singer who captivated the world during the Second World War, is set to perform in a new musical about her life on the front line.

The musical, titled "Lili Marlene", is based on the life of the singer who became a symbol of German resistance during the war. It is set to be performed in a new production that will highlight her role as a morale booster for German soldiers.

The musical is set to be performed in a new production that will highlight her role as a morale booster for German soldiers.



Workers exhume bodies from a mass grave at the Kibeho refugee camp to count the dead following the massacre of Hutu refugees allegedly committed by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan army. The Rwandan government has put the toll at 336 but the U.N. has said some 2,000 people were killed. Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, visiting the camp, said an independent commission will investigate the massacre (AFP photo)

Rwanda siege continues as cholera risk rises

KIGALI (AFP) — Troops of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army continued their siege of the Kibeho refugee camp in the north-eastern part of the country Friday, as the risk of a cholera epidemic increased.

The camp, which is home to about 2,000 refugees, has been under siege since late March. The Tutsi army has cut off all access to the camp, and the situation inside is dire. Refugees are suffering from lack of food, water, and medical supplies.

The risk of a cholera epidemic is now considered high due to the lack of sanitation and the close quarters in which the refugees are living. The U.N. has urged the Rwandan government to allow access to the camp and to provide humanitarian aid.

all humanitarian organisations. In Geneva, U.N. spokesman Gerd Gaster said Friday that "some displaced people want to be certain that they will be welcomed under good conditions in their native villages and two envoys have gone with some of them to these villages to report back on the situation."

In some 15 districts where people are due to go home, "there are now 24 U.N. human rights mission agents, of whom 12 have been made available by the European Union," she added.

Aldo Ajello, a special envoy representing U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, arrived in Kigali Friday and was due to visit the camp later in the day.

He is here to gather first-hand information and meet Rwanda's president, vice president and prime minister, said U.N. spokesman Ismael Diallo.

Ajello arrived with a message for the government from Dr. Ghali which sources said was stern. The 15-nation U.N. Security Council condemned the massacre, along with

Russian, Chechen commanders set for talks as fighting rages on

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian and Chechen military commanders were set to hold talks Friday as fighting raged on in the breakaway Chechen Republic despite a unilateral ceasefire announced by Moscow.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Chechen separatists opened fire on Russian troops in two areas of Chechnya overnight, killing one soldier and injuring seven others, Interfax News Agency reported.

The Russian forces returned to the area after the ceasefire. "In the event of shooting, federal troops will immediately neutralise the positions concerned with artillery," a Defence Ministry spokesman warned.

In a decree issued Thursday, President Boris Yeltsin announced that a 14-day ceasefire would take effect in Chechnya from midnight on April 27 until midnight on May 11.

It was timed to coincide with Moscow's World War II victory commemorations in a bid to appease world leaders due to attend the ceremonies.

But Gen. Grachev said some rebel units were probably unaware of Mr. Yeltsin's moratorium and Russian army representatives were contacting Chechen military commanders.

Field commanders from both sides were due to meet Friday in the eastern Chechen village of Novy Atagi to discuss Moscow's ceasefire.

The Chechens were to be represented by their chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, and the Russian by General Genady Troshev.

Moscow has ruled out talks with Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, whose independence bid triggered the massive Russian military assault on the mainly Muslim republic on Dec. 11.

In western Chechnya, Russian artillery pounded three rebel-held villages almost without a break early Friday, an AFP correspondent in the region reported.

Russian long-range guns opened up on the villages of Bamut, Stary Akhkol and Yandi Thursday in the evening and kept firing all night.

Meanwhile, Interfax News Agency reported that Chechen separatists opened fire on Russian troops in the southeastern village of Nohai-Yurt, wounding four of them.

Frequent heavy machine-gun fire could also be heard along the front.

Russian intelligence sources cited by Interfax said rebels were massing in south-eastern Chechnya, including "foreign mercenaries."

Several local Chechen leaders said they would not abide by the Russian moratorium and Gen. Grachev warned of "massive" reprisal if the ceasefire was not observed.

Observers said Yeltsin's announcement was aimed at sparing world leaders attending the World War II anniversary ceremonies the embarrassment of appearing to endorse a war that has been condemned across the globe while commemorating the end of another brutal conflict.

The May 9 ceremonies are to be attended by more than 50 world leaders including U.S. President Bill Clinton, French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin had a 30-minute telephone conversation Thursday, in which they tried to smooth over their differences.

ences. (see story below)

Mr. Clinton earlier held a 10-minute meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev at the White House in an effort to avoid frictions at a May 9-10 summit meeting in Moscow.

The brother of a U.S. relief worker who disappeared in Chechnya on April 9 said Friday he would visit the region with U.S. diplomats in a bid to clear up the mystery.

Chris Cuny said there was still no indication of the whereabouts of his brother Frederic, 50, who was on a fact-finding mission on the refugee problem in Chechnya when he last contacted his employer, the Soros Foundation, on April 9.

There was no news either about the five people who were accompanying Frederic Cuny — an interpreter, two Russian scientific researchers and two Red Cross workers.

Yuri Mikhailov, a senior Russian official responsible for reconstruction in Chechnya, told Interfax Friday the population of the devastated Chechen capital Grozny now stood at 250,000 following the return of refugees.

Clinton, Yeltsin seek common ground before summit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. and Russian presidents are seeking common ground two weeks ahead of their Moscow summit, which Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev predicted will have a "constructive outcome."

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a 30-minute telephone conversation Thursday, in which they tried to smooth over their differences.

Relations between the United States have been strained over the U.S.-led plan to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) eastward to include several former East Bloc countries, Moscow's sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran and the military crackdown in Chechnya.

"There are some important problems," Coit Blacker, a national security official, told reporters following the phone conversation between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin.

"The president took advantage of this time on the phone with President Yeltsin to raise a number of issues and to underscore the importance of working this through," he said.

Mr. Clinton earlier held a 10-minute meeting with Mr. Kozyrev at the White House in an effort to avoid frictions at the May 9-10 summit meeting.

Mr. Kozyrev avoided reporters after the meeting, but said in an interview in Friday's Washington Post that his talks Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had paved the way for a "constructive outcome" on the NATO issue.

Mr. Blacker told journalists that the U.S. had hopes the Russians "will move to a point" where they can participate in the partnership.

Moscow has argued that NATO's enlargement would pose a threat to its security and has warned it would reconsider commitments under the 1990 treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) as a consequence.

Mr. Kozyrev told the Post that there were still disagreements over NATO expansion, but that there was a

"good chance" that Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin would be able to address the subject in a constructive way.

As the two presidents spoke Thursday, the Kremlin announced a ceasefire in Chechnya as of April 28 until May 11, a move welcomed by the administration as a positive step towards restoring peace in the northern Caucasus.

"We certainly welcome it as a step toward a larger process. It is a very helpful step at this point," Mr. Blacker said.

The Clinton-Yeltsin talks gave the administration an opportunity to review the list of contentious issues facing U.S.-Russian relations and which could potentially embarrass Mr. Clinton, who has steadfastly supported Mr. Yeltsin, at the summit.

Philippine rebels launch second major raid

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Islamic rebels attacked a southern town Friday during a visit to the region by President Fidel Ramos, who said that peace talks were still on track but had no comment on the latest killings.

There were different casualty reports from the Abu Sayyaf attack on the town of Tungawan, about 760 kilometres south of Manila.

The Criminal Intelligence Service (CIS) here said six civilians, two soldiers and two rebels were killed while Philippine Marines intelligence sources said six rebels and two soldiers were slain.

The attack was the second in four weeks and has cast a dark cloud on peace talks between the government and another group of Muslim guerrillas.

About 150 Abu Sayyaf

gunmen attacked one section of the Tungawan town centre shortly past noon, according to police in the nearby town of Ipil, which was itself sacked by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on April 4.

The CIS regional chief, Senior inspector Willy Tanager, told reporters he had yet to receive a second confirmation of the police report.

Mr. Ramos, who was visiting Davao City in another part of the southern Philippines, made no reference to the Tungawan raid Friday and stressed at a news conference beamed on radio nationwide that peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) remained on track.

The president said the military was capable of crushing Abu Sayyaf.

Vietnam hails victory over U.S.; honours veterans

HANOI (R) — Vietnam President Le Duc Anh Friday hailed the "great victory over U.S. aggression" and top leaders paid tribute to veterans of wars against the French, Americans and Chinese to mark Sunday's 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

"Defeating the aggressive war of U.S. imperialism... was a great victory... our people had to confront the most powerful aggressors on earth," Mr. Anh wrote in the Communist party daily newspaper Nhan Dan Friday.

But Mr. Anh quickly struck a benevolent line, saying tolerance was also a factor of strength in Vietnam's effort to put the past behind it and strive towards development and prosperity.

"While the pain and suffering from the U.S. aggressive war still burdens the life of our whole nation, our government and people, with

goodwill and sincerity, are helping the search for American servicemen missing in the war," he added.

"The humiliation of being impoverished, backward and left behind by other nations is no less than the humiliation of losing the country and being enslaved," Mr. Anh said.

Washington, which backed South Vietnam during the war that claimed the lives of three million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians and 58,000 U.S. troops, set up formal ties with Vietnam last January by setting up a liaison office in Hanoi.

But U.S. President Bill Clinton has said a full accounting for more than 2,000 U.S. servicemen listed as missing in Indochina is a top national priority and progress will help determine the pace of normalising relations with Hanoi.

Mr. Anh said the U.N. estimates that the "ceasefire" negotiated last December, helped limit the scale of fighting in January and February though some analysts think that the fall in fighting was more the result of both sides pausing for winter and to restructure their forces rather than any agreement.

Both sides have since mid-March repeatedly violated the agreement, the Bosnians mounting two offensives on March 20 and the Serbs stepping up shelling of cities including Sarajevo.

Western diplomats in Paris Thursday cautiously speculated that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic might now be prepared to recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina without — as he has so far demanded — the lifting of all international sanctions against his government.

Serb forces, who have laid siege to Sarajevo for three years, have recently imposed crippling restrictions on U.N. operations across the country

Bosnia tense as contact group gathers in Paris

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Tension mounted in Bosnia Friday with heavy machine-gun duels overnight round Sarajevo as "contact group" officials gathered in Paris to discuss a truce due to expire in three days and fears rose of full-scale war.

Western and U.N. officials here said there is little room for diplomatic manoeuvring in Paris and the key decision on any extension of the truce would have to come from Belgrade.

The Western powers in the five-nation contact group — made up of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — have for months been pressing Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to recognise the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has promised to sign a new truce here if Mr. Milosevic recognises his country and applies pressure on the Serbs to end their siege of Sarajevo and agree to an international peace plan already accepted by the Bosnians.

Without some political

breakthrough, UNPROFOR civilian spokesman Alexander Ivankov said Thursday "we see a slippage towards full-scale war" in ex-Yugoslavia.

"The situation (round Sarajevo) was rather tense overnight," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Pierre Chavancy said Friday.

There was "heavy machine-gun duelling around the Jewish Cemetery" on the left bank of the Miljacka River that runs through the Bosnian capital, he said.

Mortars slammed into several suburbs and over 120 heavy machine-gun rounds impacted on the "logistics route" out of the city over Mount Igman — the sole route out of the city with the airport closed by Bosnian Serbs to almost all traffic.

Shelling was also reported by Sarajevo Radio against the Central town of Visoko and near Bihac in the north-west while Serb Radio said Glamoč in the southwest had come under fire from Croat forces.

Ahead of talks expected here at the weekend, U.N. Bosnia Commander General

Chirac to stage show of unity a week before run-off

PARIS (AFP) — The French right is preparing for a massive show of unity Saturday, with all its leading lights due to turn up at a huge rally for presidential hopeful Jacques Chirac, a week before his decisive May 7 run-off with Socialist Lionel Jospin.

Former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing Friday became the latest heavyweight to accept Mr. Chirac's invitation to attend the bash in an unprecedented attempt at solidarity following months of bitter divisions over the two rival Gaullist candidates for the Elysee Palace.

The former head of state, who remained non-partisan throughout the months of division between Mr. Chirac and Premier Edouard Balladur, will join thousands of supporters in the grounds of the Bagatelle Palace in the Bois de Boulogne, west of Paris.

Participants will even include die-hard Balladur minister Francois Leotard, while Mr. Balladur's campaign spokesman, who has spent much of the last six months attacking Mr. Chirac, will also be there.

But the most welcome guest at the meeting will undoubtedly be Mr. Balladur himself, eliminated in last Sunday's first round of ballots to choose a successor to President Francois Mitterrand.

For it is his voters that Mr. Chirac, bidding for the French presidency for the third time, must win over to ensure his victory in next Sunday's head-to-head second round.

The two men, whom Mr. Chirac once described as "friends of 30 years," have been staging a tantalising political dance with each other all week, after Mr. Balladur was knocked out of the contest.

The Gaullist premier has publicly urged his supporters — who formed nearly 19 per cent of the vote in the first round — to switch to Mr. Chirac next Sunday to ensure that Mr. Chirac is not beaten by a Socialist for the third time in a row.

But an attempt to hold a meeting between the two men ended in dismal failure



French Socialist presidential candidate Lionel Jospin is mobbed by supporters as he arrives for a campaign rally in Marseille. Mr. Jospin will face neo-Gaullist Jacques Chirac in the second round-run off of the presidential election May 7 (AFP photo)

during the week, with Mr. Balladur replying to lick his wounds in the Alpine resort of Chamonix.

The Saturday rally will be the occasion of their reconciliation after months of bitter rivalry between them over the presidency. One picture of Mr. Chirac shaking hands with Mr. Balladur could be worth a thousand, nay a million votes.

Observers agree that the unity symbolised by the rally is essential if the right is to win.

Mr. Chirac's right-hand man, National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, said earlier in the week that it was quite possible for Mr. Jospin to win on May 7, "if the right does not do what is required" and rally behind Mr. Chirac.

Mr. Sarkozy said Thursday that French right had to attend in force to show there was "no bitterness" between the former rivals.

"We believe that the possibility of a third Socialist seven-year term is enough of a danger that we will be at the meeting on Saturday... to show that there are no second thoughts, no bitterness, but simply a desire to fight Lionel Jospin," he said.

Although Mr. Balladur will undoubtedly turn up at the Saturday rally, the terms of his participation are far from clear.

Delors, I am very happy that he has recently expressed the idea that he was available," Mr. Jospin said on RTL Radio. "This is a man for whom the French people have enormous respect, even admiration, and I think this is a man who could contribute significantly to his country."

"The privilege... of naming a prime minister belongs to the president of the republic. It does not belong to a candidate for the presidency," Mr. Jospin said, ruling out disclosing his choice for the top job in his cabinet until after he won the run-off ballot.

Some Socialist leader have said naming Mr. Delors premier would give a much-needed boost to the Socialist's campaign and soothe financial market worries over Mr. Jospin's election.

Mr. Delors Wednesday left the door open to serving under Mr. Jospin but said he was not eager for the job.

Mr. Jospin denied Friday a report that he plans to introduce new electoral rules favourable to small parties such as the far-right National Front if he is elected in May 7 presidential elections.

Mr. Jospin told French radio that he could not and would not change electoral rules so rapidly — although he confirmed that he would dissolve parliament "very quickly" if elected.

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Jordan Times

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Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Time to work with vigour to reap benefits of peace

THE THREE-DAY symposium held in Amman last week on the multi-billion dollar development programme for the Jordan Rift Valley was the most tangible evidence yet of the potential fruits of peace that the region could enjoy after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October.

For one thing, the discussions during the symposium not only dealt with the technical aspects of developing the Jordan Rift Valley and the economic potential in the area shared by Jordan and Israel but also brought out possibilities of financing projects.

For Jordanians who have been seeing a lot of conferences and meetings but little in terms of projects materialising six months after the signing of the peace treaty, the focus that the symposium provided on the crucial question of financing was a watershed.

The various options reviewed at the gathering underlined the fact that financing is available for Jordan Rift Valley development if the Jordanian and Israeli governments were politically committed to economic liberalisation and free market policies.

Simply put, it meant that if the two governments would help establish the economic viability of projects, would ease and amend restrictive laws and regulations, provide basic infrastructure services, and leave the private sector alone to operate the projects with iron-clad guarantees that the situation would not be reversed at the whims and fancies of anyone, then businessmen are ready to seriously consider investing in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Indeed, the mindset of the two governments to bring about the precise kind of climate and do whatever is possible to encourage the private sector was clearly established by the presence at the symposium of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

As such, there was no ambiguity over the political will and determination in Jordan and Israel to meet the demands of the private sector.

But was that enough? Are there enough willpower, flexibility, and the much-too-important awareness among Jordanian bureaucrats of the importance of the current stage?

Indeed, the government could hand down strict instructions to every bureaucrat at every level to ensure that everything is done to encourage the private sector, both local and foreign. But that does not mean that some of our civil servants would carry them out.

One of the means is well-focused training and orientation courses to ensure that the civil servants not only adjust themselves to the fast-changing atmosphere in the nature of their work — and accept that they are there to serve people rather than to make things difficult for the citizens — but also help along the process with all sincerity and understanding.

It might look silly for someone who has served in a government department for 20 years to undergo a refresher course, but it is precisely the fact that he or she had been there for 20 years that warrants a reorientation.

They have to realise that the country that we live in is no longer the Jordan of the 60s, 70s or 80s, and that there is a revolutionary shift in our approach to business and market economy to adjust ourselves to the requirements of the era.

Instead of continuing to be indifferent to anybody and everybody that turns up the windows of our government departments and behave as if their task is to make things difficult for the public, our civil servants should understand that their job on their side of the window is to serve the people.

Of course, it means a 180 degree turn for many who believe that their job is read newspapers and sip coffees at their government tables while papers pile up around them. And this transformation could be difficult, but it has to be done, and done quickly.

That is not to downplay the efficiency of some of our government officials. In fact, Jordan ranks somewhere in

the middle of government efficiency when compared with most other countries with similar features. But that is not simply enough.

Our leadership has taken very courageous steps, the people are expectant, and the world is slowly but surely closing in with an open mind whether the right ingredients exist in the area for investments. We cannot afford to wait any longer, take our own time bringing about changes and pursue the same old discouraging approach if we are to rise to the challenges of the day and make our country naturally receptive to investments and free market economy.

Our civil servants — who are from among us indeed — owe it not only to the general public but themselves to get their act together and improve their efficiency. Jordan is moving in a totally new direction towards what could be prosperity and fruits of peace if we Jordanians appreciate and realise what we have to do in the bargain.

Expecting our leadership to deliver the benefits of peace in a silver platter is not realistic. We have to play our own roles and play those roles well.

But it is important to know that those roles are, and here is where the government could do a lot through intense inter-departmental conferences and meetings away from the public eye. The public have had enough of those.

The message should be simple and clear: Jordan is entering a new era, and it is time to shed decades-old apathy and work with vigour to ensure that we reap the benefits of peace and stability. Those who still believe in waiting for the benefits of peace to come to them should simply get up and leave to make room for

others who are willing to work and devote themselves.

Harsh as it may sound, it is the reality. It is not simply a question of someone not doing his or her job; it is a question of not allowing someone who does not do their jobs well to let down the hopes and aspirations of our people at large.

Land at expense of peace

THE RECENT Israeli decision to expropriate 530 dunums of Palestinian land in the villages of Beit Hanina, Al Malha and Beit Safafa comes on the heels of similar seizures in and around East Jerusalem in the past few months. Earlier this year, the Israeli government approved plans to build more than 3,000 additional homes on Arab land in the north, south and east of Jerusalem in yet another bid to tighten its grip on the city.

The message as we see it from this determined Israeli policy is that Israel will continue the path of creating facts on the ground till there is nothing left to negotiate about between the Jewish state and the Palestinian National Authority, especially on Jerusalem. The Rabin government obviously aims to seal the future of the Holy City, including the Arab side of it, well in advance of the final phase of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks. What the Israeli prime minister does not seem to comprehend is that these tactics would not lend support to the ongoing efforts to consolidate and build the peace that we have strived so long to achieve.

Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher has explained to Israeli audiences recently Jordanian-Israeli relations could not improve, at least on the popular level, unless there is parallel advancement on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

Even though we do not expect the Israeli government to heed these sensible warnings, we can only serve notice that there is no way that Arab-Israeli ties can take on substance as long as the Labour-led government keeps on playing a dangerous game when it comes to the future of East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories in general. It is bad enough that the fate of Arab Jerusalem cannot be determined till after the Israeli national elections in 1996 which the Likud party may win. To jeopardise the future of the occupied territories even further by expropriating more Palestinian lands would simply make a mockery of the whole peace-making process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the meeting in Tunis between the prime minister of Jordan and Tunisia saying that it represented a true manifestation of how inter-Arab cooperation and joint Arab action can be. Indeed, said the paper, the creation of the joint committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries reflects a desire towards economic integration at a time when the world witnesses the emergence of various economic blocs that cooperate closely with the purpose of maximising benefits and protecting their interests. Now that the Arab states have entered the peace era in the wake of the cold war, it is incumbent on them to unify their efforts and pool their resources towards creating a very powerful economic bloc which can protect pan-Arab interests, the paper said. Stressing that inter-Arab political differences should be put aside, the paper said that the Arab peoples are more concerned with achieving socio-economic development than remaining hostage to the political issues and differences that divide the Arab Nation. Should the Arabs fail to achieve some kind of solidarity and join their efforts to cater to the requirements of the modern world, they will no doubt remain under the influence of others and will have to accept what other nations decide for them, warned the paper.



Israeli confiscation of occupied Arab lands undermines peace process

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE ARABIC newspapers last week gave prominence to Israel's confiscation of Arab-owned land in Palestine, the peace process in the light of the Israeli-Arab meetings to discuss economic development, repercussions on the Oklahoma bombing and a host of domestic issues.

Israel's confiscation of Arab lands around East Jerusalem for the purpose of building settlements came under severe attack by Al Dustour daily which said that the latest reports about the Israeli moves were bound to undermine the whole peace process. The Israelis chose this particular moment in which the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are stalled and when tension is rising to declare the new plans about confiscating more Arab lands, noted the daily. This is an outrageous provocation of Arab people's feelings and a disregard to U.N. resolutions and the peace process itself, said the paper. How can the Israelis expect the Arabs to accept any normalisation of relations with them at a time when they continue their aggression and hold on to their policies of Judaizing Arab territory? The paper asked.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily, stressed the importance of the economic dimension in the peace process but he said that without tackling the core of the conflict and without solving political matters, the economic projects remain futile. The writer referred to the economic meetings between Israelis and Jordanians in Amman last week and said such meetings were premature because the Arab masses expect a solution of the occupation question first and an end to Jewish settlement on Arab lands before turning their attention to economic development projects involving Arabs

and Israelis. Talking about joint projects now is like discussing the provision of new furniture for a house which has not yet been constructed, said the writer.

Al Aswaq daily said in an editorial that the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, avoided committing Israel to any solution concerning refugees or the progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track when he faced journalists in Amman last week. The Israeli minister used diplomatic language and declined to discuss steps demanded by the Arabs to ensure the success of the peace process and instead concentrated his attention on regional developments, said the paper. Without minimising the importance of such plans for the region, the Arabs want to see the basic requirements for security, justice and stability being considered before entering the next phase of joint ventures.

Sultan Al Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i, demanded that the Europeans be directly involved in the Middle East peace process since they are partners in financing the projects being contemplated or planned for the region. The Israelis and the Americans are monopolising discussion about plans for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley as they want to maintain hegemony on the region, but the time has come for the Arab parties to demand that Europe take a leading role in this matter and other aspects of the peace process because it is the Arabs' interest that the Europeans get involved, said the writer. He said this should be the Arab side's endeavour at present while the preparations for the coming Amman economic conference are underway.

Yasser Za'atreh, writer for Al Dustour, warned of an impending civil war in

Palestine as a result of the Palestine National Authority's demand that Hamas and the other opposition groups comply with conditions imposed by the Israelis. Dialogue between the various factions should be continued and the views of the opposition should be taken into consideration, demanded the Islamist writer who said that the campaign of arrests against the opposition should be terminated. The Palestinian people refuse to see hundreds of the opposition elements rotting in jail, their arms collected and Israel's desires fulfilled.

Referring to the Oklahoma bombing tragedy, Taher Adwan, a columnist for Al Dustour, said the time has come for the Arab Nation to raise the slogan of "we are hostile to those declaring enmity towards the Arabs and friends of those who seek our friendship." Following the Oklahoma blast the Arabs and Muslims inside the United States have been subjected to an open campaign of hostility that manifested hatred and malice buried deep in the hearts of the Americans, despite the fact that the perpetrators of the bombing have been discovered, said the writer. The fate of millions of Arabs living in the United States is endangered as the Zionists continue to paint a picture of Arabs and Muslims as terrorists, warned the writer, who demanded that the Arab governments take a unified action to protect them and to launch a diplomatic offensive aimed at safeguarding Arab interests.

His colleague in Al Dustour Mohammad Kawash dwelt on the same theme and charged that terrorism is an Israeli industry as was manifested in Israel's practices against the Palestinians. Criticising the Western media for trying to blame the Arabs and Muslims for any terrorist acts like that of Oklahoma, the

writer said the U.S. government was orchestrating the campaign against the Arabs although it realises that its support for Israel is bound to create enemies for the United States in this region. The U.S. also knows that it is the Zionists and the extremists in the United States itself who are carrying out terrorist activities. The time has come for the U.S. administration to realise that its own domestic policies are fuelling terrorism inside the United States itself.

Samih Ma'aitah, a columnist for Al Dustour, criticised the United States for allowing a campaign against the Arabs and Muslims to continue. Washington is allowing Zionist organisations in the United States to point accusing fingers at the Arabs and Muslims and this is a dangerous policy that foments civil strife and one that destabilises the communities living in the country. Furthermore, the writer said, weaknesses in Arab information services had opened the door for such hostile campaigns against the Arabs and Muslims and contributed indirectly to the escalation of Zionist campaigns against the Arabs.

Hilmi Al Asmar, editor of the Islamist Al Sabeel weekly, accused the government of openly cracking down on the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamists in violation of all democratic norms. The campaign against the Islamists, started in the wake of 1989 parliamentary elections when the Islamists were described as a force trying to take control of the country's destiny, said the writer. The imposition of the one-person, one-vote electoral system, tampering with the results of the second parliamentary election and intimidation of Islamist groups were some of the manifestation of this hostile campaign, the writer said.

Threat overshadows Korea nuclear pact

By David Brunnstrom
Reuters

SEOUL — Attempts to implement a landmark U.S.-North Korean pact degenerated into brinkmanship and threats this week, the projected date for a deal to supply Pyongyang with less-threatening nuclear reactors.

When talks in Berlin between U.S. and North Korean negotiators broke off without progress last Thursday, Washington warned it would again push for sanctions against Pyongyang if it carried out its threat to restart its nuclear reactors.

Last year when the threat of sanctions last loomed, North Korea warned for war.

The text of the nuclear agreement reached between Washington and Pyongyang in Geneva on Oct. 21 said the United States would "make best efforts to secure the conclusion of a supply contract within six months of the date of this document."

North Korea has called this a "deadline" for the conclusion of the agreement to supply it with \$4 billion worth of light-water reactors, from which it is harder to extract bomb-making plutonium than North Korea's existing models.

It has said if the agreement was not reached by April 21, it would have no choice but to resume operating some of its nuclear

facilities, which the West suspects were being used to produce plutonium for nuclear bombs.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Tuesday the United States considered Friday a "target date" rather than a cut-off date for the reactor agreement.

The crux of the deadlock is Washington's insistence that North Korea should accept nuclear reactors from its arch-foe, South Korea, and Pyongyang's equally adamant refusal.

The United States says Seoul must be the main contractor in the deal because it was the only country willing to put up the bulk of the massive cost. South Korea has said it would not provide a penny unless it was given a central role.

The United States, Japan and South Korea, the main players in the supply arrangements, have refused to rule out hope for the talks even though North Korean negotiators said they planned to return home from Berlin on Friday.

Washington said it was willing to continue the talks if the North Koreans were willing.

A South Korean foreign ministry spokesman has said South Korea would continue efforts to persuade North Korea to accept South Korean model reactors "to the end" in cooperation with the United States and Japan.

LETTERS

Guilty regardless of innocence

To the Editor:

WHAT HAPPENED in the heartland of America saddened me for two reasons. First, I am sad and my heart goes out to the people who lost loved ones in this horrible tragedy. Second, I am sad that the nation which prides itself on its civil rights achievements has really not changed much since African-Americans were considered second class citizens or since Japanese-Americans were rounded up and imprisoned in concentration camps.

The fact is that if the "terrorist" McVeigh, who is a white American, had not been caught, which according to the media was almost what happened; Arab-Americans or Arab-looking people living in the United States would have become targets for witch hunters. The lives of innocent people would have easily been put at risk by a people who have internalised American stereotypes about the Middle East.

An FBI official speaking on television after the bombing apologetically announced that Israel would know what to do in a case like this. This FBI official was alluding to what he thought of as the misfortune of living in a country which would not carry out a counter bombing on suspected countries. Well I have news for this FBI official, the United States has historically had no problem bombing another countries with no clear reason.

Finally I think it was really nice of President Clinton to gather the children in the White House and talk to them about coping. I really wished that President Clinton would have added a word or two about bigotry and discrimination. Maybe he should also gather the Arab-American children and apologise to them for a nation which was so quick to judge.

Aida Dahbous
Amman

Economy

Turnover drops, prices gain at Amman Financial Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices gained but turnover dropped at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week as investors turned to more selective trading after several weeks of hectic activity that saw stocks recovering from record lows since 1993.

The general price index based on 60 major companies closed for the week at 150.43, up 1.5 points or one per cent from the week's opening of 148.9 points. It was the first time that the index went over the 150-point mark since July 1994.

Brokers said a government meeting last week that reviewed the general situation at the stock market and a

decision to adopt action remove hurdles in the way of increased activities there had injected optimism among investors.

"Now it is a safe bet that most of the pending applications from foreign investors to enter the market would be approved soon," said a broker. "It is also clear that one of the priority laws in front of the government and legislature will be the new AFM law," added the broker, who, like other AFM dealers, cannot be identified by name.

The weekly report of the AFM said turnover during last week was JD 12.9 million, down 40 per cent from the previous week's JD 21.5 million. Brokers said the main

reason for the drop was the absence of major stock transfers last week as the case was in the previous week.

"It is not actually a drop in trading," said an AFM dealer. "Quite simply the high turnover in the previous two weeks came as a result of bulk transfers of stocks among institutions. Such transfers do not happen every week."

The AFM report said the industrial index gained 4.3 points, or 3.5 per cent and the service sector index 1.1 points or one per cent during the week. Commercial banks shed 0.4 point, or 0.3 per cent, and insurance firms lost 1.7 points or 1.2 per cent. Industrials accounted for JD 5.2 million, or 40.3 per

cent, of the weekly turnover, followed by commercial banks with JD 4.1 million (31.8 per cent), the services sector with JD 3.4 million (\$26.4 per cent) and insurance stocks with JD 200,000 (1.5 per cent).

Shares of 91 companies were traded during the week, with 36 of them closing for the week with gains, 42 showing losses and 13 remaining stable.

The AFM report said 5.7 million shares changed hands under 7,632 deals during the week.

The Philadelphia Investment Bank saw JD 905,500 of its shares being sold and bought during the week; but the stocks closed at JD 1,980,

Regional blocs no threat to world free trade — WTO

GENEVA (R) — The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has signalled confidence that a proliferating regional trading blocs would not turn into isolationist blocs undermining progress to world-wide free trade.

A report by analysts in the WTO secretariat said there was no sign any of the 108 customs unions and free trade areas set up since World War II posed a threat to the multilateral system of trade rules the new body was created to administer.

"There have been no fortress-type regional integration agreements among WTO members," declared the 90-page report.

It also argued that the deep and wide-ranging tariff cuts agreed under the seven-year Uruguay Round negotiations among some 125 countries meant there was little scope for greater reductions to purely regional accords.

Analysis showed that "regional and multilateral integration initiatives are complementary rather than alternatives in the pursuit of open trade," the report said.

The round deal, reached under the old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which is being absorbed by the WTO, went into force on Jan. 1 with the launch of the new body.

During the difficult final two or three years of the round, when prospects of a global accord often seemed to fade, there were frequent warnings that regional agreements could provide the basis for closed trading blocs if the negotiations failed.

Some commentators suggested the European Union could follow that path as well as the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The emergence of a grouping linking the United States with major Asian powers including Japan and China and the whole of Latin America in an Asia-Pacific Economic Community (APEC) has also stoked these fears.

And some developing countries have expressed alarm at proposals for a Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Accord, or TAFTA, linking Europe and North America, suggesting it could create a "high powers" bloc discriminating against their goods.

Ongoing WTO chief Peter Sutherland and his successor Renato Ruggiero, who takes over on May 1, this week both warned that an inward-looking TAFTA — if it ever became a reality — would be a barrier to global integration.

But in a speech Wednesday, Mr. Sutherland himself said that while regional accords were often building blocs for world-wide agreements "the WTO will remain the indispensable central forum for the trade policies of the global marketplace."

Some commentators have offered apocalyptic visions of vast "trade fortresses", whose member states only buy and sell each others' products, coming into armed conflict in the bid for markets as in George Orwell's novel "1984".

But the WTO report said completion of the Uruguay

Round — which unlike most regional accords also covers services, agriculture and protection of intellectual property rights — had put to rest many of these concerns.

Analysis of the growth in trade between countries in regional groups before and after they were set up and with countries outside did not show increasing regionalisation.

"Nor does it confirm the often-alleged emergence of trading 'blocs' centred in North America, western Europe and the Asia-Pacific region," the report declared.

Japan minister says U.S. trying to enslave Japanese

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese cabinet minister said the United States appeared to be using the yen's steep rise against the dollar to enslave the Japanese people, media reported Friday.

"There was a time (in the United States) when black slaves from Africa were brought and produced wealth," media quoted Transport Minister Shinzuke Kamei as saying in a speech.

"Now I have recently noticed U.S. moves which make me suspect they are saying, 'can't we skillfully use the diligent Japanese as slaves?' and that they are actually doing so," Mr. Kamei said.

The media reports said Mr. Kamei, an outspoken hawk in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), made the com-

ment in reference to Washington's stance on foreign exchange.

Many Japanese politicians are frustrated with what analysts term Washington's "malign neglect" of the dollar, whose slide of more than 20 per cent against the yen is doing little damage to the U.S. economy but threatens to derail Japan's recovery.

Mr. Kamei also said he had a feeling that the United States, the free country upon which Tokyo depends most, had recently turned cold towards Japan.

"These may be the words of a jilted woman, but I have such a feeling a bit," he was quoted as saying.

On Friday, Mr. Kamei told reporters he had intended his comments to be off the record.

Developing states urged to avoid hot capital

WASHINGTON (R) — Developing countries were urged to avoid excessive reliance on short-term funding to avoid Mexico-style crises, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank wrapped up their spring meeting Thursday.

The development committee of the two agencies also noted that international investors were more cautious now and said countries would have to follow sound economic policies in order to gain access to international capital.

A hastily-assembled international rescue package was required to stabilise Mexico after investors fled in a rush from the devalued peso earlier this year.

"They (countries) should avoid excessive reliance on short-term flows to finance longer-term development needs," the development committee said in a communiqué.

The final day of this semi-annual gathering was devoted to finding more creative ways to help those left behind in the global economy, even as aid money is growing scarcer.

Currency turmoil among the world's major economies took a back seat to more down-to-earth issues such as road building and bringing electricity to the countryside.

"We want to ensure that more selective and effective use is made of scarce resources available, and to see more radical ways of harnessing the private sector to the cause of development," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told the committee that includes rich and poor nations.

While many formerly poor countries have surged ahead into the growing class of

"emerging market" economies, the plight of the world's poorest countries is more acute than ever.

Wealthy nations are finally trimming their budget deficits and this often means cutting funding for overseas aid.

And when the emerging countries get into trouble — like Mexico — there is a huge drain on international funds.

In a proposal almost unthinkable a few years ago, the IMF is mulling the sale of some of its gold to supplement its support for poor countries, especially those in Africa.

Specifically, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus hopes to use gold sales to turn the fund's enhanced structural adjustment facility into a permanent pool of funds that the poorest countries could use and repay at modest cost.

Support is coming from some of the largest economies, led by Britain, which argues that the IMF does not need to sit on the entire board of gold with which it was founded 50 years ago.

However, not everyone agrees. German Economic Cooperation Minister Carl-

Dieter Spranger said it would send a wrong signal that whenever a problem developed, gold could be sold.

But Mr. Clarke said he thought there was support for the idea. "I think there is a reasonable level of support, a growing level of support," he said.

Lecture at Jordan Electricity Authority About Upgrading Capacity of Gas Turbines Organised by Hawamdeh Engineering Construction Company

A lecture was held recently at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on upgrading the capacity of gas turbines through using equipment for cooling the air entering the turbines and employing an advanced technology to upgrade efficiency of gas turbines station during peak working hours in dry and desert areas.

Talking about the new technology was Peter Shilton of the U.S. Vogt Company which has developed this new technology. Mr. Shilton gave a detailed description of this new technology, which has been used in the United States and Malaysia,



saying that it has succeeded in increasing the production capacity during peak time by up to 30 per cent of the total output of turbine gas.

This implies reduced costs and eliminate the need for additional units.

The symposium was held at the invitation of Hawamdeh Engineering Construction Com-

pany, which is the representative of Vogt Company in Jordan.

At the end of the lecture, Mr. Shilton answered questions put forward to him by the audience, including JEA engineers. Hawamdeh Company is known for its interest in introducing the latest electric and mechanical technology in Jordan.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION

A Leading Private School in Amman is currently recruiting for the following position:

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- * Minimum of five years experience in Management or Educational supervision with a leading educational institution.
- * Excellent command of both Arabic and English.
- * Should be between the ages of 30 and 45 years old.
- * Preference will be given to candidates who have participated in educational / specialized courses / seminars abroad.

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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WOYNS
THAVE
CLOOSH
GLEANB

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCARY OWING SCURVY BOLERO
Answer: What the winning cake did for her — "ROSE" TO THE OCCASION

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY 29, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

- ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to have a meeting with fellow associates and come to a far better understanding with them.
 - TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Try to agree with fellow associates and all goes more smoothly today than heretofore. Be more precise in handling your own tasks.
 - GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A fine day today for enjoying amusements with friends. Show more affection for your mate and get the right kind of response.
 - MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Home is your best bet today where you can find greater happiness and you can improve the conditions there.
 - LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Join efforts with those of allies so that you can handle routines more enjoyably and efficiently today.
 - VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day today to get your property improved and make it look more charming and functional. Use care in motion while on the highway.
 - LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are very magnetic today and can gain some cherished wish very quickly. Accept any invitations which come your way.
 - SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Dive into the right sources and come up with the truth of any situation and then you know how to proceed.
 - SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be very outgoing and see as many persons as you can today and make new contacts of worth who can help you succeed.
 - CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Bring your talents to the attention of bigwigs today who can help you to commercialise on them.
 - AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take a little trip with one today who is congenial and you can gain some cherished aim and desire very easily.
 - PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be with that person who is like a magnet for you, and you can have a wonderful time together.
- Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- Look for bargains
- finger (take action)
- Take off
- ice cream holder
- Good-bye
- Cosmo's garb
- Again
- Disinfect
- Meander
- Pastureland
- Win
- Unexpectedly
- Strikes
- Quercion, a.g.
- Family circle member
- Sweeper
- Right from the
- Annoys
- Prospector's quest
- Author Murdoch
- Deceased
- Mountain lion
- Edge
- French
- Kat's "in the Colony"
- "Shampoo" co-mer
- Musical group
- room
- Had faith in
- Set aside for
- Ginger
- Syllabic
- Flapjacks
- Talented
- Marcel Marceau, e.g.
- Lazured and Samms
- Look off
- Football play
- Woe
- Walt's term
- Look for bargains
- finger (take action)
- Take off
- ice cream holder
- Good-bye
- Cosmo's garb
- Again
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- Syllabic
- Flapjacks
- Talented
- Marcel Marceau, e.g.
- Lazured and Samms
- Look off
- Football play
- Woe
- Walt's term

DOWN

- Overcharge
- Sweetheart
- Individually
- Church seat
- Complaint
- Mental creations
- Official
- Bovine shelter
- Wrote
- Cares
- Part of a park
- Mid cat
- Brewer
- creations
- Congressman
- Snore
- Embraces
- Flat cap
- Lumber camp
- toile
- Camel
- figure
- Ms. Bonback
- Wheel and
- Young lady
- Buffalo's lake
- Concurred
- Wrest jewelry
- Stile
- Mr. Flinstone
- Newman or Simon
- Acres, Tammy
- Inquadrant
- 51 Totals
- 52 Alaskan city
- 47 Ms. DeGeneres
- 48 Legal papers
- Inclined
- wallpaper
- Director Kazan
- 51 Totals
- 52 Alaskan city
- 53 Sock it
- 57 Fore and

Man pleads guilty in slaying of Michael Jordan's father

LUMBERTON, North Carolina (AP) — A teen-ager pleaded guilty in the murder of basketball superstar Michael Jordan's father and agreed to testify against another man, almost two years after the killing.

Larry Martin Demery, 19, faces a minimum of life in prison on the first-degree murder charge. He told judge Gregory Weeks on Thursday he understood he also could face the death penalty.

Sentencing will be delayed until after the trial of Daniel Green, 20, who is also charged in the July 23, 1993, killing of James Jordan. That trial has not been scheduled.

Jordan, 56, was shot as he napped in his car on the shoulder of an highway south of town, while taking a break on a trip from Wilmington to Charlotte. His body was later found in a South Carolina swamp.

Demery originally pleaded innocent, but told police in August 1993 he helped dispose of Jordan's body.

Green maintained his innocence during a telephone interview with Durham TV station WTVD after Thursday's hearing.

"He told me not to tell the police anything and I didn't tell police anything to incriminate him," Green said. "I feel stupid as hell, to be honest with you."

Michael Jordan, in Charlotte for the National Basketball Association playoffs against the Charlotte Hornets, said "oope, oone at all," when asked if he had any reaction.

He walked through a crowd of reporters, refused to answer questions, hopped into a car with a friend and drove off.

James Jordan died just a month after watching his son lead the Chicago Bulls to a third NBA title. Michael Jordan said his decision to retire had been in the making before his father's murder, "but I think what it made me realize is how short life is."

When Michael walked away at the pinnacle of his career in October 1993, he spoke of an "overwhelming feeling of grief and loss" after his father's death.

After a brief stint in Minor League Baseball, he rejoined the Bulls on March 19.

He left his No. 23 jersey hanging in the rafters at the Bulls' home arena, saying it was the last number his father had seen him wear. Instead, he wears the No. 45 he wore as an outfielder for the double A Birmingham Barons.

Asked why Demery entered the plea, District Attorney John Britt said: "I would not reduce the murder charge."

Britt had said he would seek the death penalty in the case. Demery set impassively at the defense table during much of Tuesday's hearing. His mother, Virginia Demery and girlfriend, Angela McLean, sat in the spectator's section and occasionally wiped tears.

Demery's trial had been scheduled to begin May 30. He also pleaded guilty to three counts each of felony breaking and entering, larceny, and robbery with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of conspiracy to commit robbery, charges involving Jordan's death and two other robberies.



Mark Price of the Cleveland Cavaliers dribbles his way past an opponent (AFP photo)

Jazz, Knicks, Pacers, Sonics win playoff games

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon had 45 points but couldn't stop John Stockton from sinking a layup with 2.4 seconds left to lead the Utah Jazz to a 102-100 victory over the defending champions in the opening night of the National Basketball Association playoffs on Thursday.

Kenny Smith had tied the game for Houston on a 15-foot baseline jumper with 16 seconds left, but Stockton came off a high pick from Karl Malone, drove on-molested to the basket and dropped in a layup as Olajuwon, Smith and Robert Horry tried for the block.

"We just went with the pick-and-roll and tried to get the ball up on the glass, hoping someone would get the rebound or the foul," Stockton said. "But it fell, and so we'll take luck."

Vernon Maxwell's desperation 30-footer at the buzzer was long for the defending champions, who got 45 points from Olajuwon.

Stockton finished with 28 points and Malone had 25 points and 14 rebounds for Utah, which was eliminated by Houston in the Western Conference finals last season.

The fourth quarter had eight ties and seven lead changes.

To New York, the Knicks took the first small step back to the finals as Patrick Ewing scored 21 points and Derek Harper scored 11 of his 16 in

the decisive third quarter for a 103-79 rout of the Cleveland Cavaliers in their Eastern Conference playoff opener.

Charles Oakley scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for New York, which lost the seventh game of the championship series to Houston last year.

"We jumped on them from the beginning," Ewing said. "Our intensity was sky high. In fact we had too much intensity, and committed a couple of turnovers as a result."

Danny Ferry scored 20 points to pace the Cavaliers, who have lost eight consecutive playoff games.

"We had our share of mental errors and physical mistakes. It was a nice blend," said a sarcastic Cleveland coach Mike Fratello.

Cleveland pulled to 51-45 early in the third quarter before New York went on an 18-2 run to put the game away.

New York shot a sizzling 81 per cent (13-for-16) in the third quarter, led by Harper's 5-for-5. The Knicks made 11 straight baskets during one stretch.

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 17 of his 24 points in the second half to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 90-82 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Derrick McKey scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Indiana, which

won four of five games against the Hawks during the regular season.

Grant Loog scored 18 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for Atlanta. Mookie Blaylock and Steve Smith added 17 points each for the Hawks, who got just five points from their bench.

Atlanta cut the lead to six on two free throws by Blaylock with just over a minute left, but Miller drove the lane and hit a running jumper in traffic to seal the win with 40 seconds left.

"We didn't play our best ball, but we did get the first win," Miller said. "You have to give them credit, they never quit. They are going to be tough the whole series."

The winner of the best-of-five series will take on the victor of the New York-Cleveland series.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 21 points, including

four dunks in a 23-7 run over the final two quarters, as the Seattle SuperSonics hammered the Los Angeles Lakers, 96-71, in the opener of their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Detlef Schrempf scored 20 points and Kendall Gill added 17 for the Sonics, who lost four of five regular-season games to the Lakers this season.

The Sonics are trying to erase the memory of last season's first-round playoff upset at the hands of Denver after they had put together the league's best record in the regular season.

Nick Van Exel scored 29 points for the Lakers, who were held to their lowest-ever point total in a playoff game. Los Angeles had scored 72 in a game against the Milwaukee Bucks on April 19th, 1972.

Results of playoff games

Eastern Conference			
New York	103	Cleveland	79
(New York leads best-of-five series 1-0)			
Indiana	90	Atlanta	82
(Indiana leads best-of-five series 1-0)			
Western Conference			
Utah	102	Houston	100
(Utah leads best-of-five series 1-0)			
Seattle	96	La Lakers	71
(Seattle leads best-of-five series 1-0)			

Age creeps up on legendary American

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Two months shy of his 34th birthday, Carl Lewis feels it and tries to cope with it. It's called age, and it continues to tug at his finely tuned body.

He doesn't run quite fast as he used to. He doesn't jump quite as far. He's finding it harder and harder to get up for meets. The intensity, the focus — traits that made him perhaps the best athlete of all time — aren't always there.

Once, the future seemed limitless for the three-time Olympic veteran and eight-time gold medalist. Now, it doesn't extend beyond his next meet.

A fourth Olympics in 1996? Not even thinking about it, Lewis insists. In fact, he's not even ready to talk about the U.S. championships in June. His only thoughts now are on the 100 metres he'll run at the Drake relays on Friday.

"When Drake is over, I'll evaluate it and move on to the next meet," Lewis said.

"This season and the rest of my career, I'm going to take it one meet at a time and not speculate about my future."

But in spite of all that, his advancing age, the wear and tear on his body from all the years of competing and training, Lewis remains a force in his sport. He cites his mostly vegetarian diet for helping him stay in shape and he still has a burning drive to excel.

Lewis ran a sub-10-second 100 at the Texas relays in early April, finishing in 9.94 despite getting a late start to his training. And he won the long jump at the Mount Sac relays in California on April 15, although his winning leap of 8.123 metres (26 feet-8 1/4 inches) was well short of what he's used to doing.

"One thing I am having a problem with is just staying focused for a lot of the meets," Lewis said. "For instance, that was a big problem I had (at Mount Sac). Even though it was one of my only long jumps of the season, I still have a difficult time getting focused for some of the meets I've been to so many times."

Because of that, Lewis expects to be inconsistent. But at the big-time meets, Lewis is confident he'll still be capable of a big-time performance.

"When you've been to 14 Mount Sac relays or 13 of this meet or 11 of this, you don't approach it the same way," he said. "I have to totally adjust to that. And that's been my biggest problem. But the one thing I've kept is my enthusiasm for training and my enthusiasm for the major meets."

"When I go to a national championship and go, 'oh my God, I can't wait until this is over with,' then it's time for me to walk out of here. But right now, I still have that desire to be no. 1, a desire to be at the top."

Lewis remembers 1991, when he ran the 100 metres seven times and won only two or three of those races. But he set a world record of 9.86 at the World Championships that year and anchored the U.S. team to a world record in the 400 relay. He also had three long jumps over 29 feet (8.84 metres) at that meet.

"That's the way my career is going to be more," Lewis said. "I'm going to have some up and down meets and some meets that will be kind of hit or miss because of the emotional aspect."

"But when it comes to the big ones, I will be ready and ready to perform at a very high level."



Eric Cantona

Cantona to stay with Manchester United

MANCHESTER (AP) — French star Eric Cantona ended weeks of speculation Friday by announcing that he has signed a new three-year contract that will keep him with Manchester United through 1998.

Cantona, who has been banned from soccer worldwide until next October for assaulting a Crystal Palace fan on Jan. 25, turned down a lucrative transfer offer from the Italian club Inter Milan to stay with United.

"I'm staying here because Manchester United is the biggest club in England and maybe in Europe and maybe in the world," Cantona said at a news conference. "I am pleased to have the opportunity in the next three years to win again many trophies with them. Everybody in this club deserves it, and all the fans, too."

"I over thought about leaving Manchester United, never," Cantona added. "Maybe some people in England (wanted me to leave). But I'm here. I'm with Manchester United. I can forget everything and we can win everything. We are bigger

than the people who have sometimes been so hard and so wrong. That's not a problem for me."

Cantona was flanked at the news conference by Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards.

"It's no secret that Inter Milan were very interested in Eric," Edwards said. "He has shown his loyalty to us and we have shown our loyalty to Eric."

"We are delighted," Edwards said. "It's been a long traumatic period for the club. Eric has been sentenced by the club, by the F.A., by the courts and by the French F.A. He has had four punishments. We believe he is now serving those punishments. We'd like to see an end to the whole affair."

Ferguson said, "We're pleased for our fans, for Manchester United and for everyone associated with the club. We've taken a giant step towards winning things by sealing Eric's immediate future for the next three years."

Inter Milan officials reacted bitterly to the announcement, claiming they had been misled by Cantona's representatives.

They had agreed to have him play for Inter next year.

Inter general secretary Paolo Tavecchia said, "I am disappointed with Cantona's representatives, his manager and his lawyer. I think they were not as fair with us as we were with them. We were waiting for a phone call from his representatives but they didn't bother to call us."

Cantona has won league title medals three seasons in a row since he arrived in English soccer in the 1991-92 season, one with Leeds and two with the Reds. But United is almost certain to lose its title to Blackburn this season and, although the Reds are again in the F.A. Cup final against Everton at Wembley May 20, Cantona is hanned from playing.

The Frenchman hit the headlines around the world Jan. 25 when he launched a lung-fu-style kick at Palace fan Andrew Simmons after being expelled in a Premier League game.

Cantona was taken to court charged with assault, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two weeks in jail.

Klinsmann could stay at Tottenham

BONN (R) — German World Cup striker Juergen Klinsmann could stay another season with English Premier League Tottenham before moving to German champions Bayern Munich, sources close to the player said on Thursday.

While press reports in England and Germany have suggested in the last week that a move to Bayern next season was virtually certain, one

source told Reuters: "It is all far from done and dusted. It is still very much 50-50."

Klinsmann, 30, has had an offer from Italy as well as from Bayern. He said earlier this week he would not make a final decision until the end of the English season next month.

The Germany captain has said he would talk to Tottenham first before making any final decision.

"He could still move to

Bayern after another year in England after the European Championship (in England in 1996)," one source said.

"There is nothing signed, as some reports have suggested."

The general feeling in German media is that Klinsmann will find it hard to leave the security of a three-year contract and an estimated annual salary of 3.5 million marks (\$2.6 million) in Bundesliga's richest club.

Opening to day MARVELS OF THE SPRING EXHIBITION

AMETCO, has the pleasure of inviting you to take part in its unique exhibition (Marvels of the Spring) that is taking place in the Forte Grand Hotel - Jordan Hall, in the period of April 29th until May 2nd 1995. Our special event includes (Accessories, Jewelry, Electrical items, computers and a large variety of gift items).

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Announces the invitation to tender No: 22F/95

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No.22F/95 (for the supply of paper bags). The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2.00 p.m. local time Monday 8th May 1995 application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee J.D. (20) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Thursday 18th May 1995

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH
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THE PASS IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 3 2
♥ K 8 7
♦ Q J 2
♣ A 5 2

WEST
♠ 4
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 6 6 4 3

EAST
♠ Q J 10 8 5
♥ Void
♦ A K 9 8 2
♣ Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A K 9
♥ A Q 10 9 4
♦ 10 6
♣ K J 7

The bidding:
East 1♠ South 2♥ West 3♥ North 4♥
Pass Pass Dbl Pass

Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠
The pop song by Simon and Garfunkel called it "The Sound of Silence," and it can, indeed, be golden. Unfortunately, we humans love the ring of our voices and West spoke once too much on this deal from the trials to select North America's world championship team some years ago.

North's jump to four hearts was a little ambitious. Fortunately, South had partner covered. Impressed by the five-card trump holding and singleton, West doubled—an action that was to cause regret.

West led a spade and declarer made short shift of the hand. After winning the trick in hand, South immediately ran the ten of hearts. When East showed out, the rest was a simple mop-up operation.

A low heart was led to the right, the king of trumps was cashed, and the jack of clubs was finessed successfully. The ace and queen of trumps drew the outstanding ♠ and declarer had 10 tricks—five trumps, three clubs and two spades.

Had West remained silent, the contract would surely have been defeated. The logical way for declarer to tackle trumps was to play a high honor from one hand or the other. Although that would reveal the 5-3 split, there's nothing declarer could do to recover. No matter how declarer maneuvered, nine tricks would be all that could be taken. Try it.

8th BFAAME championships Jordan in 6th place after round 16

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan moved to 6th place after round 16 in the 8th Asia, Africa and the Middle East Bridge Championship which started here on April 22.

India, with 285.50 points, leads the 13-nation competition in first place followed by South Africa with 260.00 points in second place, and Egypt is third with 259.50.

The championship, held at the Forte Grand Hotel under the patronage of Prime Minister Sbarif Zeid Ben Shaker, will conclude May 3. The top two teams of the championship will participate in the World Bridge Championship due to be held in Beijing in September.

Results of the Open teams round 16:

Home Team	Away Team	IMP Score	VP Score
4. Syria	1. Mauritius	22-65	5-25
8. Russia	5. S. Arabia	33-46	12-18
11. Bangladesh	9. Réunion	43-69	9-21
3. Jordan	2. India	27-73	5-25
7. Egypt	6. Pakistan	86-30	25-3
13. Sri Lanka	10. S. Africa	3-46	5-25
12. Kenya	Bye		18

Standings in the eight-nation women's competition, after round 12 came as follows: India in the first place with 225.25 points, followed by Egypt with 214.00 in second place and South Africa in third place with 207.50. Jordan's women team is in 7th place with 139.00.

Women's teams results of round 12:

Home Team	Away Team	IMP Score	VP Score
1. Jordan	6. S. Africa	22-26	14-16
3. Kenya	5. Réunion	24-26	15-15
2. Egypt	8. India	15-44	8-22
4. Sri Lanka	7. Pakistan	45-24	20-10

In round 17 Jordan will meet Pakistan, Russia in round 18 and Saudi Arabia in round 19.

The Jordanian women team's will meet Pakistan in round 13, Réunion in round 14 and Sri Lanka in round 15.

Representing Jordan in the men's team are the tournament's chief organizer Ghassan Ghanem, Marwan Ghanem, Arafat Al Sahab, Samir Zein, Omran Abu Dheim and Suleiman Abdo.

Representing the women's team are Sireen Barakat, Reem Andoni, Mais Aloul, Alia Shraideh, Antoinette Akasheh and Taghreed Akasheh. Here are the standings following the end of round 16.

RANKINGS

Open Teams	Women's Teams
1. India 285.50	1. India 225.25
2. S. Africa 260.00	2. Egypt 214.00
3. Egypt 259.50	3. S. Africa 207.50
4. Réunion 236.00	4. Pakistan 178.25
5. Sri Lanka 233.50	5. Sri Lanka 177.50
6. Jordan 198.25	6. Réunion 167.50
7. Mauritius 195.00	7. Jordan 139.00
8. Pakistan 188.25	8. Kenya 105.50
9. Kenya 168.00	
10. Syria 165.50	
11. Bangladesh 161.00	
12. Saudi Arabia 151.00	

Drivers test a safer circuit, following Senna's death

IMOLA (Agencies) — A bronze bust of Ayrton Senna was unveiled in a downtown gallery and fans brought fresh flowers to the Tamburello turn.

But there was no official tribute for the three-time world champion at the Dino and Enzo Ferrari Autodrome of Imola as the Formula-One circus returned to the circuit where Senna was fatally injured in a high speed crash of his Williams-Renault car one year ago.

Drivers were busy in testing a changed track and in setting up the cars for Sunday's Grand Prix of San Marino, the third race of the 1995 World Championship.

However Frank Williams, one team manager investigated by Italian judges for Senna's death, suggested that the memory of Senna was in "the minds of everyone at this circuit" and that it was something to be dealt by each person in his own private way.

Ferrari's driver Gerhard Berger said it was an emotional comeback to Imola but added "we are professionals and must concentrate on racing now."

Most drivers were mindful however that the death of Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix and the fatal crash of Austrian Roland Ratzenberger in qualifying the day before prompted a major shift in Formula-One safety.

Turns at some circuits, including Imola and Monza in Italy, have been changed and cars had technical modifications to reduce speeds.

"Safety standards in F-1 have been greatly improved following the Imola accidents last year," said Williams.

At Imola four turns, including Tamburello, were changed radically to make it a "new" circuit.

"It's now much safer," said world champion Michael Schumacher, who drives with Benetton-Renault.

Jean Alesi, the French driver of Ferrari who clocked the fastest time in Thursday's warmup, said it was a completely different circuit "still difficult to manage."

Berger said he found that the track still was difficult although the "corners that made your heart beat faster in the past have gone."

Berger, who campaigned

for safety following Senna's death, survived a high speed accident at Tamburello a few years ago.

Schumacher heads San Marino pace. World champion Michael Schumacher's Benetton-Re-

naul headed the field in the first official practice session for the San Marino Grand Prix here on Friday.

He clocked 1min 27.274 to outpace Austrian Gerhard Berger in the Ferrari (1:27.282) and Scott David Coulthard in the Williams

Michael Schumacher (Ger) Benetton-Renault	1:27.274
Gerhard Berger (Aut) Ferrari	1:27.282
David Coulthard (GB) Williams-Renault	1:27.459
Damon Hill (GB) Williams-Renault	1:27.537
Jean Alesi (Fra) Ferrari	1:27.813
Mika Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes	1:28.343
Eddie Irvine (Irl) Jordan-Peugeot	1:28.516
Johnny Herbert (GB) Benetton-Renault	1:29.403
Nigel Mansell (GB) McLaren-Mercedes	1:29.580
Gianni Morbidelli (Ita) Footwork-Hart	1:29.582
Olivier Panis (Fra) Ligier-Mugen Honda	1:30.801
Mika Salo (Fin) Tyrrell-Yamaha	1:31.221
Hélio Castroneves (Ger) Sauber-Ford Zetec	1:31.358
Ukyo Katayama (Jpn) Tyrrell-Yamaha	1:31.630
Joe Verstappen (Ned) Simtek-Ford	1:32.156
Aguri Suzuki (Jpn) Ligier-Mugen Honda	1:32.297
Pierluigi Martini (Ita) Minardi-Ford	1:32.445
Takachika Inoue (Jpn) Footwork-Hart	1:32.988
Luca Badoer (Ita) Minardi-Ford	1:33.071
Karl Wendlinger (Aut) Sauber-Ford Zetec	1:33.494
Bertrand Gachot (Fra) Pacific-Lotus-Ford	1:33.892
Domenico Schiattarella (Ita) Simtek-Ford	1:33.965
Andrea Montermini (Ita) Pacific-Lotus-Ford	1:35.169
Pedro Paulo Diniz (Bra) Forti-Ford	1:36.684
Roberto Moreno (Bra) Forti-Ford	1:37.612

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Brazil's Bebeto (left) and teammate Zinho doing stretching exercises during a team training session (AFP photo)

Bebeto to join J-League

TOKYO (AFP) — Kashima Antlers are to pay five million dollars to Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto to join the Japanese football league club in June on a three-year contract, a Tokyo daily newspaper reported Friday.

The 31-year-old forward, currently playing for Spain's Deportivo La Coruña,

said he had turned down a better offer from two-time J-League champions Verdy Kawasaki. Verdy had offered Bebeto, whose real name is Jose Roberto Gama de Oliveira, \$7.5 million for three years, full insurance, 20 first-class tickets a year between Japan and Brazil, two cars and two months vacation.

But in a statement before a friendly match between Brazil and Spain's Valencia on Thursday, Bebeto said he preferred Antlers, the Nikkan Sports newspaper reported.

"I think I'm going to join Antlers, because the team has Leonardo and Jorginho — besides Zico invited me," he said.

Fellow Brazilian Zico, who scored a sensational hat-trick in his first match for Antlers in the inaugural 1993 league, hung up his boots last year and now works as an advisor to the team.

The Antlers are currently leading the 14-team league with nine wins against two defeats.

Griffey's three-run homer beats Tigers

SEATTLE (R) — Ken Griffey hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning and Randy Johnson and two relievers combined on a three-hitter as the Seattle Mariners blanked the Detroit Tigers 3-0 on Thursday.

Griffey blasted a 1-1 pitch off the third deck in right field off Tigers starter Sean Bergman, scoring Felix Fermin and Darren Bragg.

Johnson went six innings, allowing all three hits and striking out eight. Bill Risley pitched two hitless innings and Bobby Ayala threw a perfect ninth for the save.

The trio retired the last 18 hitters they faced. In Toronto, Ed Sprague hit his first career grand slam and drove in five runs as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Oakland Athletics, 7-1.

The game was played before 31,070 fans, the lowest since the Blue Jays moved into the stadium in 1989.

Sprague allowed just two hits over eight innings before tiring in the ninth.

Sprague homered off Ron Darling in the fourth inning. In Chicago, Al Eldred scattered four hits over five innings and the Milwaukee Brewers scored six runs with two out in the sixth inning to coast to a 9-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Back-to-back doubles by John Jaha and Joe Oliver gave Milwaukee a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning, and the Brewers broke the game open as seven consecutive batters reached base after Oliver made the second out of the inning.

Jim Abbott took the loss for Chicago, allowing two runs, one earned, in 4-1/3 innings.

RESULTS

National League

Chicago	6	Cincinnati	5 (11 innings)
Philadelphia	6	St. Louis	2
Atlanta	6	San Francisco	4
Colorado	8	New York	7
Montreal	2	Pittsburgh	1
San Diego	13	Houston	1

American League

Toronto	7	Oakland	1
Milwaukee	9	Chicago	4
Minnesota	7	Baltimore	4
Cleveland	11	Texas	6
Seattle	3	Detroit	0

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Jeff Bridges & Tommy Lee Jones in Blown Away		Kim Basinger, Julia Roberts, Sophia Loren PRET - A - PORTER		CONCORD "1" Baby's Day Out Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqla daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haifa Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'ad's Return ☆☆	COMING SOON The Comedy Show	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625185. The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays.
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "2" Bad Girls Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 11			CABARET	

أفلام من الجبل

FBI seeks new powers and tools

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director Louis Freeh has asked Congress for new tools to fight terrorism, complaining his agency had been hampered by an inability to gather intelligence on groups advocating violence.

"There are individuals and several groups in the United States that are arming themselves for potential conflicts with law enforcement or gathering weapons to further a social or political cause," Mr. Freeh said in Senate testimony, eight days after the deadly Oklahoma city bombing.

But he said the FBI could not gather intelligence on groups advocating violence "until their violent talk becomes deadly action."

"The first rule of self-defence is to know the enemy who intends to destroy you," Mr. Freeh said.

President Bill Clinton has proposed a series of reforms to combat both domestic and foreign-based terrorism and several anti-terrorism bills have been introduced in Congress.

The administration wants expanded phone tapping ability and greater access to consumer records. It also wants to hire some 1,000 new agents, prosecutors, and other federal law enforcement and support personnel.

Anti-government extremists are believed responsible for the huge truck bomb that ripped through a federal building last week, killing more than 110 people and leaving nearly 100 more missing in the worst such attack in U.S. history.

Members of the Senate judiciary committee warmly supported strengthening anti-terrorism measures and said the issue was above partisan politics.

But several senators hoisted warning flags over possible conflicts between some of the measures and Americans' constitutional rights to privacy and free speech.

There were also signs of a possible conflict over

attempts to add other controversial crime provisions as anti-terrorism legislation makes its way through Congress.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, introducing his own anti-terrorism bill Thursday, said it included reforms to prevent prisoners under death penalty from using the system to launch what he termed numerous unnecessary appeals.

The issue was pressed at the hearing by conservative Republicans Jon Kyl of Arizona and Charles Grassley of Iowa, who deplored the ability of convicts to escape the death penalty for years while in prison.

Mr. Dole also said his bill excluded a provision proposed by Mr. Clinton to expand the role of the military in assisting in domestic cases involving chemical and biological weapons as well as nuclear weapons.

The military is barred from domestic law enforcement.

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick called for an FBI counter-terrorist and counter-intelligence fund for "extraordinary" expenses in terrorism crises.

The military should be authorised to intervene when terrorists possess chemical or biological weapons, she said, noting that current law provides for military intervention only in the event that terrorists possess nuclear arms.

Senator Orrin Hatch, chairman of the judiciary committee and a Republican from Utah, said Mr. Clinton had agreed to support limits on death row appeals — a cause championed by Republican lawmakers who gained control of Congress for the first time in 40 years in November — to "keep our side from bringing guns up."

Senate minority leader Tom Daschle was more circumspect on prospects for a deal, saying gun control and death sentence appeals were "among a lot of extraneous matters ... that could be brought into the debate on terrorism."

Blast suspect seems like boy-next-door at hearing

EL RENO (AFP) — America's most dangerous man — the only person charged to date in the killer car bombing at an Oklahoma City federal building — seemed as mild as the proverbial boy next door during a special hearing.

The chains that bound Timothy McVeigh's wrists and wrapped around his waist rattled when the lanky, crew-cut 27-year-old, whose ruler-strait posture reflected his military training, shuffled into the hearing Thursday under heavy guard.

Here was the man whom thousands would gladly see dead for his alleged role in the April 19 attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that left 110 people dead and nearly 100 missing.

U.S. Judge Ronald Howland convened the hearing shortly after 2:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) in a make-shift court hurriedly assembled in the visitor's centre of the medium-security federal prison here to determine if McVeigh should stand trial for the assault.

Fears that someone might have tried to kill McVeigh compelled U.S. officials to hold the hearing under the tight security the guard towers and double rows of fences laden with razor-sharp concertina wire provided.

Besides, it was impossible to have the hearing in the federal court 48 kilometres east in Oklahoma City — that structure still remained closed due to the damage it suffered when the blast ripped the neighbouring federal building nearly in half.

Instead McVeigh's fate was weighed in a brightly lit room with white tile floors buffed to an antiseptically pure spic and span — a cleanliness rivalled only by the vast expanses of lawn outside manicured to a putting-length precision.

Labour costs are not exactly a major concern at this all-male facility with a population of 1,315.

McVeigh at first seemed impassive, almost bewildered by the events unfolding about him.

He sat flanked by defence attorneys whose first arguments were pleas for the judge to remove them from the trial because they were too personally affected by the tragic blast.

A few metres away, a squad of U.S. Justice Department lawyers, led by an associate deputy attorney general who jetted in from Washington for the process, sat armed to the teeth with legal documentation.

But McVeigh soon gained his bearings, actively consulted with his lawyers, and kept up with the events by reading court papers — albeit with some difficulty as his hands remained chained the entire hearing, making it awkward to flip pages.

He never said a word to the court during the five-hour procedure, but he conferred often with counsel. During the rare moments when humour surfaced in the process he would flash a brief smile or even venture a short laugh.

It was a peculiar process indeed. The visitor centre made an odd venue, its soda and candy vending machines that would normally serve visiting families hummed so loudly they nearly drowned out the attorney's opening arguments.

The small room quickly became stuffy with some 60 attorneys, officials, guards and a select media pool wedged in.

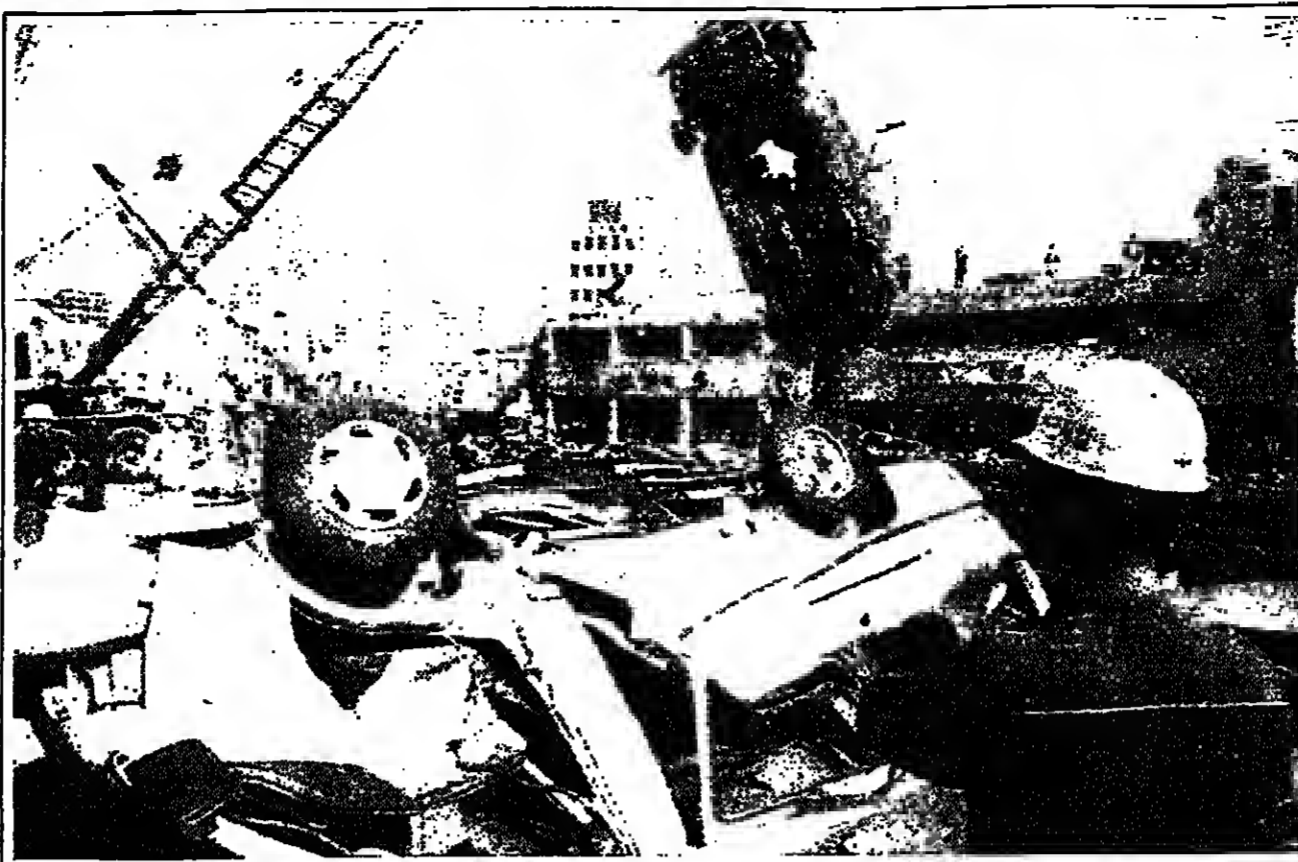
There was the irony of watching two hinterlands lawyers who moments before nearly begged the judge to let them off the case, charge forward with incredible tenacity and legal prowess.

They pressed Mr. Howland repeatedly with earnest arguments demanding due process and they fended off the government from trying to block witnesses from speaking.

McVeigh's attorneys, John Coyle and Susan Otto, seemed as if they were the dream-team power lawyers representing multi-millionaire super star O.J. Simpson instead of public defenders helping an indigent drifter.

But perhaps strangest of all was the sight of McVeigh spending a sunny, warm spring afternoon under armed guard and key.

For it took little stretch of the imagination to picture him shooting basketball or enjoying a laugh with friends if it just had not been for last week's fateful morning blast that shattered so many lives.



BLAST IN KOREA: Rescue workers use a crane to remove a crushed car from the site of a gas explosion Friday which has killed nearly one hundred rush-hour commuters. Early

reports suggest that the accident may have been caused by human error (see page 4) (AFP photo)

Turkish jets raid Tunceli ravine

TUNCELI, Turkey (Agencies) — Turkish planes bombed a Kurdish rebel stronghold, almost inaccessible to ground forces, in eastern Turkey for the second day running on Friday, witnesses said.

Three planes bombed Ali-bogazi ravine, a Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) hideout in rugged Tunceli province, on Friday morning and Thursday afternoon, villagers in the area told Reuters by telephone.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Twenty-five thousand troops tried to storm the ravine, a 1,500-metre-deep gash cutting for 30 kilometres through the mountains, earlier this month but only partly penetrated it, the military said at the time.

Ali-bogazi, whose narrow top hinders air raids, was the scene of major battle in the 1930s when the army crushed a Kurdish uprising in eastern Turkey.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in the PKK's 10-year-old fight for a Kurdish state in southeast Turkey.

The army has been on a big drive against the PKK in Tunceli since late March in parallel with its anti-rebel operation in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile around 200 Iraqi Kurd militiamen moved in to guard a border zone against Turkish Kurd separatists following the withdrawal of Turkish troops, a Kurdish official said.

Necirvan Barzani, a leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said Thursday his group had deployed 200 men at Derkare near the border town of Zakho to guard against PKK rebels.

The aim was "to prevent the PKK from passing through that strategically important gate from the northern mountains to Zakho," Mr. Barzani said.

Derkare, 10 kilometres east of Zakho, lies at the foot of a long mountain range behind which the PKK established strongholds in a remote valley region.

Some 500 Turkish soldiers backed by tanks guarded the area after Ankara launched its huge operation on March 20 to hunt down PKK fighters in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

The PKK has used the area as a rear base to launch attacks in its 11-year campaign to set up an independent homeland in southeast Turkey which has cost 15,000 lives.

Ankara said it is banking on cooperation with Iraqi Kurds, especially the KDP, to stop infiltration by PKK rebels once all its troops are withdrawn from northern Iraq.

But Mr. Barzani stressed that the KDP was acting on its own initiative and had not been ordered to deploy by the Turkish army following the pull-out of one third of its troops on Tuesday.

In Bratislava, Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu said on Thursday that the Turkish troops still in northern Iraq would be pulled out very soon and he blasted the Council of Europe for demanding a speedier withdrawal.

Saudi fugitive held in U.S. to be deported to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mohammad Jamal Khatifa, a Saudi national under death sentence in Jordan, is expected to arrive here this week after a U.S. court approved his request that he be deported to the Kingdom, where he will stand trial, a Jordanian lawyer said Friday.

It will be the first extradition carried out between the U.S. and Jordan after the two countries signed an extradition treaty in April.

The death sentence on Mr. Khatifa, who is also sought by the Philippines government on charges of "plotting and financing subversion," was passed by the State Security Court in December.

The court, which tried Mr. Khatifa in absentia, found him guilty of financing subversion in Jordan in connection with a series of explosions and attempted bombings at public places in the trial of the so-called "Arah Afghans."

No one was killed in the blasts, but seven people were injured. The explosions also caused heavy damages.

Twenty-five people were tried in the case; 11 of them, including Mr. Khatifa and two others in absentia, were given the death sentence, seven were given stiff jail terms and seven others were acquitted.

(The court of cassation, which reviewed the verdicts,

has ordered that the State Security Court reconsider the sentences after taking into account some testimonies which it had rejected during the trial.)

Samih Hussein, a Jordanian lawyer who was approached by members of Mr. Khatifa's family in January and is expected to act as his counsel when the man is returned to Jordan, said the verdict against his client would be automatically annulled and the case would be retried.

"I expect Mr. Khatifa to be returned to Jordan this week," Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times. Under Jordanian laws pertinent to trials in absentia, "he will be produced in the State Security Court, which will revoke the death sentence against him and order a retrial," Mr. Hussein said. No official comment was immediately available.

Mr. Khatifa was arrested by U.S. immigration authorities in December on charges of falsifying his visa application and held without bail in San Francisco while federal agents investigated his background.

The only charge against him in the U.S. was that he failed to disclose in his visa application from that he was under criminal indictment in Jordan.

The evidence against Mr. Khatifa, a Saudi businessman who used to run a religious schools in the Philippines,

was given by another defendant, a Jordanian schoolteacher, who spent three months at the school in 1993.

The schoolteacher, who told interrogators that the school paid him JD 1,000 as the cost of a return airline ticket from Amman to the Philippines and \$500 per month as honorarium while in the Philippines on three months of probation, also was given the death sentence.

According to Mr. Hussein, the key statement against Mr. Khatifa, who, according to Mr. Hussein, had not contacts with any of the other accused in the case, was that he "promised" to help organise a subversive group in Jordan.

In its Dec. 16 ruling, the State Security Court rejected the charge that the defendants belonged to an "illegal group" saying there was no evidence that such an organisation existed.

Press reports in the Philippines have linked Mr. Khatifa with Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York, and with the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, which is accused of extremist attacks in Philippines territory.

The Manila government had sought to block Mr. Khatifa's deportation to Jordan saying it wanted the man for trial in the Philippines.

(Continued on page 7)

Muslim leaders warn Arafat

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of Muslim leaders worldwide on Friday warned Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat not to obstruct militant attacks on Israel and said Muslims would not give up their goal of liberating all Palestine.

The warning — in a full-page ad in the leading Arabic daily Al Hayat — was signed mainly by clerics and officials known to oppose Israel. But it also showed broad-based opposition to peace with the Jewish state stretching from Algeria to India.

"The Umma (Islamic Nation), represented by its clergymen, thinkers and leaders, and the leadership of the party not to inflict harm on the mujahideen in Palestine," said the statement.

The statement, signed by nearly 500 people, comes as Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip is under increasing pressure to crack down on groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad that oppose peace with Israel.

Arafat spokesman Nahil Abu Rdeinah, reached by telephone in Gaza, declined to comment on the statement.

The ad, which also appeared in the Egyptian newspaper Al Shaab, said the Muslims will not relinquish their rights to all Palestine and to Jerusalem, which it called a holy Islamic city "not subject to a compromise."

Essentially, the statement treats the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a Muslim religious issue, not a battle over land — the approach of the PLO. While the signers largely have only their hold on public opinion to back up their warning, some have direct links with the militant groups opposing Israel.

The statement does not represent a universal opinion, of course. The chief religious leaders in Egypt and Saudi Arabia have sanctioned Arafat peace agreements with Israel. Even within Hamas, there is a division between opponents of any peace and others who want a role in Palestinian politics should the peace initiative move forward.

Among the ad's signers are avowed opponents of Israel such as Sudan's Hassan Tourabi and Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Hizbollah.

But the signers also include moderates like Ahmad Obeidat, a former Jordanian prime minister.

Column

All maternity hospitals shut in Ukrainian city

KIEV (R) — Epidemics and relocations have closed all maternity hospitals in a major eastern Ukrainian city, forcing women to travel at least 40 kilometres to give birth, officials said. Two hospitals in Lugansk, a city of 600,000 near the Russian border, were shut this week after outbreaks of bacterial infections. Three others were closed because of major repairs. "This is the fault of city authorities," epidemic specialist Anatoly Dokoshenko said by telephone. "We have a very difficult situation. A diphtheria epidemic could break out at any time. Our sewers and water system are most unreliable." Officials said ambulances were ferrying expectant mothers to four towns up to 70 kilometres from Lugansk. Epidemics of diphtheria, long eradicated in the West, cholera, and salmonella have spread through Ukraine and other former Soviet republics since the collapse of communism. At least 10 infants died of salmonella in December in a Kiev hospital, prompting alerts throughout Ukraine. Hygiene standards are notoriously poor in Ukrainian hospitals and medicines difficult to obtain as the medical care system, chaotic even in Soviet times, has all but collapsed.

Archaeologists trace ancient tools to Africa

WASHINGTON (R) — Ancient bone tools found in Africa suggest that a major advance in human social development occurred there and not Europe, and 50,000 years earlier than thought, two archaeologists said. Alison Brooks of George Washington University and John Yellen of the National Science Foundation discovered tools made of carved, speak-tipped bones near a river in Zaire in 1988 and 1990. In Friday's edition of the journal Science, the husband-wife team argues that the bone tools are approximately 90,000 years old — 50,000 years older than European tools previously regarded as the "first human invention." "What we are looking for is the origins of modern human behaviour," Mr. Yellen said. Because carbon dating is not accurate that far back, the researchers relied on more experimental methods of calculating the age of these artifacts. Their findings, which could shake up many basic assumptions about human social evolution, are controversial and will have to be confirmed by more excavation and analysis. But Mr. Yellen and Ms. Brooks said in interviews that their research will prompt archaeologists to rethink theories about the timeline for human development, and suggests that the middle Stone Age humans in Africa had more complex skills and social organisation than Paleolithic Neanderthals in Europe.

Dutch doctor convicted in baby euthanasia case

ALKMAAR, Netherlands (R) — A Dutch court has found a doctor who ended the life of a severely handicapped baby guilty of murder, but decided not to punish him for the offence. Doctor Henk Prins gave a fatal injection to the child in consultation with her parents and other doctors after she was born with a partly formed brain and spinal bifida in March 1993.

Spending on illegal drugs has dropped in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans spent \$49 billion on illegal drugs in 1993, down from more than \$64 billion in 1988, according to a new report released Thursday by the White House office of national drug control policy. Director Lee Brown said the report, which tracked U.S. spending on illegal drugs from 1988 through 1993, showed that the United States was making some headway in its battle against drugs. "This decline in drug use is good news and shows that we are making some gains in our fight against drugs," Mr. Brown said in a statement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uganda probing Sudanese relief agencies

KAMPALA (AFP) — Ugandan authorities are investigating Sudanese relief agencies here over suspected involvement in plans to destabilise the government, sources said Friday. Uganda severed diplomatic ties with Khartoum on Sunday after accusations by both countries that the other was aiding rebels. Relief agency officials who asked not to be named told AFP that Uganda's representatives for Sudan-based African Charitable Society, the Islamic Relief Agency and Munazamati Dawa Al Islamiyah, a medical charity, had been questioned by Ugandan security officials. The intelligence personnel wanted details about the organisations' work in Uganda, sources of their funds and when they started operating in the country. Press reports Friday said several Sudanese businessmen had also been interrogated and their residences searched by police who asked for information about illegal Sudanese activities in Uganda.

Qatar, Egypt discuss peace process

DOHA (AFP) — Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa discussed the Middle East peace talks and Arafat efforts to rid the region of mass destruction weapons here Friday. The official Qatari News Agency gave no further details of the emir's talks with Mr. Musa who arrived in Doha Friday for a brief visit. Cairo and Doha earlier this month signed a 25-year-agreement here to ship two million tonnes of Qatari natural gas annually to Europe through Egypt's Suez Canal.

U.S. envoy, Clerides discuss Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — The U.S. special envoy to Cyprus met Friday with President Glafcos Clerides in a fresh bid to find a solution to the divided Mediterranean island, the official Cyprus News Agency reported. James Williams, who is also to meet Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in the breakaway north, said: "This is the time to resume and redouble our efforts to find common ground that will lead to the solution we all want." Cyprus has been divided into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot zones since a 1974 invasion by Turkish mainland troops following a Greek-inspired coup in Nicosia. The United States supports U.N. efforts to establish a bizonal federation on the island.

Police free editor of Maariv newspaper

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Police released on bail Friday the editor and publisher of Israel's second biggest-selling daily after holding him for six days in connection with a telephone-tapping scandal. Ofer Nimrodi of Maariv newspaper was arrested Saturday on suspicion of organizing the tapping of telephones at the leading rival Yediot Aharonot as well as those of his own journalists. He was remanded in custody for work on Sunday. A former agent of Shin Beth, Israel's internal security service, was also released Friday.

David Rozen allegedly bugged telephones at Mr. Nimrodi's request. Bail was set at \$81,000 each. The pair are under house arrest and will be brought back for interrogation next week, police said. Police also released Wednesday the Yediot editor, Moshe Vardi, after interrogating him for 48 hours. Mr. Vardi is suspected of bugging telephones at Maariv. Inquiries into widespread bugging in the media have been underway for a year as Maariv and Yediot fought a non-holds barred tabloid circulation war.

Israel withdraws tank mascot from

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army said Friday it would withdraw a tank symbolising the seizure of the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war, provoking the fury of settlers. The tank is installed near Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank, where the army says it will begin its scheduled redeployment to allow the extension of Palestinian self-rule. The mascot will be taken to Israel's armoured weapons museum. The Jewish settlers council said the move illustrated the government's "defeatist policy" on the West Bank. "Another symbol of the 1967 victory disappears," it said in a statement.

Algerian conflict has cost \$2b

CAIRO (AFP) — The conflict between militants and Algeria's military-backed government has cost the country two billion dollars, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said in an interview published here Friday. "According to our estimates, losses amount to a little more than \$2 billion," he told the Egyptian government daily Al Ahram. "But these losses, compared to the number of citizens who have lost their lives as a result of the violence, are nothing," he said. The Algerian interior ministry said recently that 15,000 people had been killed since the start of the conflict following the cancellation of elections that Islamic parties were poised to win in January 1992, but U.S. State Department estimates are twice as high.

Hizbollah threatens to bombard Israel

KFAR MELKI, Lebanon (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas on Friday threatened to bombard northern Israel without warning if the Jewish state continued its "aggression" in South Lebanon. "There will not be one law for some and another for others. If people are subject to aggression in South Lebanon, Katyusha rockets will be fired into northern Israel," said Sheikh Naim Kassem, Hizbollah's second in command. He was speaking at a memorial service for a young suicide bomber, Salah Ghandu, who wounded 11 Israeli soldiers when he drove a car packed with explosives into an Israeli military convoy on Tuesday. Hizbollah "has fighters ready to use methods which inflict the most damage on the enemy," Sheikh Kassem said. "The resistance has decided to diversify its combat methods to keep the occupiers on their toes."